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Plea for an extension over election

THE Home Office is being urged to extend a 35 working-day limit on the time before an election can be held to replace West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner Bob Jones.

Mr Jones died suddenly last week aged 59 and is the first of the new wave of police commissioners to pass away while in office.

His death has triggered a rule

that a by-election must take place within 35 days.

The Home Office says this should be interpreted as 35 working days.

Members of the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel are pleading for more time, saying it will be 'impossible' for parties to find candidates and for authorities to organise the election in such a short space of time.

They are also concerned about the election being during the summer school holidays, when many voters might be away on family holiday.

A meeting of the panel will take place on Monday to appoint an interim commissioner, expected to be Yvonne Mosquito, currently the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner.

A public celebration of the life of

Mr Jones will take place later this month. Wolverhampton Civic Hall will host the event ahead of Mr Jones' private family funeral on July 23. His family have asked that anyone attending the celebration, which starts at 1pm, not wear black.

Mr Jones' wife Sarah paid tribute, saying he was an 'entirely modest and unassuming' man who wanted to make the public feel safe.

Desperate thief used car as a battering ram

STEALING a car park pay-and-display machine proved an ordeal for bungling thief Wesley Bristow.

The 25-year-old from Oldswinford and another man struck at the Asda supermarket in Pearson Street, Brierley Hill, around 5.45am on February 23. The whole episode was recorded by CCTV cameras.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard that those watching the film saw the culprits - both wearing hoods in a bid to hide their identity - batter the machine out of the ground but they cannot completely uproot the device because it is tethered by an underground cable. They revert to Plan B.

A jobs fair with a twist for bosses

EMPLOYERS are invited to a job fair with a twist in Cradley Heath today.

Employment Plus are hosting a skills showcase at The Salvation Army on Meredith Street. But instead of employees hosting stalls promoting their vacancies, a group of prospective employers will be displaying their skills.

Employers can attend the event between 2pm to 4pm and Julie Brown, Employment Engagement Co-ordinator is expecting representatives from businesses across the Black Country.

Encourage

She said: "We would like to encourage employers to come along even if they are not recruiting at the moment.

"Employers will have the opportunity to meet those of our participants that are seeking sustainable employment in various different sectors including retail, manufacturing, warehouse, sports coaching and catering."

Employers will also have the opportunity to meet QTT, a training provider that can provide bespoke training courses.

The accomplice struggles to get the machine upright and holds it in position while Bristow leaps behind the wheel to turn the Peugeot car into a battering ram. He smashes into the ticket dispenser, tearing it from its base but also ripping bodywork from the car.

Finally they manage to force it into the car and Bristow accelerates away with sparks flying from underneath the car, scraping the ground due to the weight.

A mile away father-of-four Bristow lost control and crashed into a wall in Bull Street. Prosecutor Mr Kevin Jones said: "The machine that contained up to £1,000 was recovered."

More than £5,000 damage

was caused to the car park. Mr Devon Small, defending, said: "The car he was driving belonged to one of the two men who had threatened violence if he did not steal the ticket machine to repay a drug debt he owed to them."

Bristow, of Church Road, who had several previous convictions, admitted theft, criminal damage and dangerous driving along with the breach of a suspended sentence given for drug dealing. He was jailed two years.

£3m fire station nearly ready



Councillor John Edwards and project manager Simon Shilton at the new fire station

BUILDING work is gathering pace on a new multi-million pound fire station in the Black Country.

Work is on track for the £3 million station serving Halesowen and Cradley Heath to be open by the end of August to fire crews.

Finishing touches are being made to the site, at the junction of Barrs Road and Halesowen Road, once site of former municipal buildings.

The history of the council buildings will be remembered with a plaque planned in

commemoration to be put in place ahead of the grand opening.

But also bosses say they wanted the building to have architecture fitting for a landmark site on a road used by thousands of motorists a month.

Glass windows soar up from ground level at the entrance to the newly named Haden Cross Community Fire Station.

Three bays have been created, for the main fire crew and a smaller response vehicle.

Asbestos exposure led to death years later

A MAN who defied the doctors to carry on living years beyond their estimates has died months before his 50th wedding anniversary.

Retired panel beater Malcolm Boggess succumbed to cancer, caused by his work with asbestos, at his Halesowen home last Wednesday. But an inquest into his death revealed the 70-year-old had beat the odds to live that long, as doctors gave him only 18 months when he was diagnosed with mesothelioma in July 2009.

Speaking at the hearing at Smethwick Council House, his wife Dorothy said he had worked with the substance during an apprenticeship.

She said: "They used to do fire engines, I believe the piping on the engines was done with asbestos. They also used to do welding with asbestos blankets. I presume they used to use them to stop sparks going all over the place. I can only go on what he told me, that the asbestos blankets were sometimes getting old, fibres were coming off them."

Before he died he received compensation.

Black Country senior coroner Robin Balmain recorded that he died of an industrial disease.

Ex-footballer to be guest

FORMER Albion player Richard Sneekes will be the guest of honour at a coffee morning next week.

The footballer will be at the Coffee Cup Community Cafe in Thornhill Road, Halesowen, from 10.30am on Tuesday.

Money raised will go towards Halas Homes, a charity which offers a range of services supporting people with learning disabilities. The charity will also be holding a variety show on July 20 at Netherton Arts Centre between 4pm and 7pm. Tickets cost £7 available by calling 0121 550 8778.

Flower festival

THE Methodist Church in High Street, Amblecote, will be celebrating 175 years with a flower festival and concert this weekend. Tomorrow Halesowen Brass Band will be perform at 7.30pm to start the festivities. Tickets on the door cost £5 with refreshments.

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Body of pensioner was found in garage

THE body of murdered pensioner Cynthia Beamond was found in the garage at her home in Howley Grange, Halesowen, an inquest has heard.

The 80-year-old's body was discovered on June 29, two days after she was reported missing. A post-mortem concluded voluntary charity worker Mrs Beamond, of Juliet Road, died from head injuries. Two people have appeared in court charged with her murder.

Coroner's investigator Bonita Poole said the widow was reported missing by her family after they could not get hold of her on the phone.

The inquest at Smethwick Council House was adjourned for police to continue their investigations.

Leo Barnes, 32, of Runcorn Road, Balsall Heath, and Chantelle Moran-Stokes, 24, from the same address in Birmingham, appeared before Dudley Magistrates Court on Thursday. Barnes is also accused of a second murder at an address in London.

Moran-Stokes also appeared at Wolverhampton Crown Court on Friday, although Barnes did not. Judge John Warner adjourned the case for plea and case management hearing on October 10.

MP is given a brewery tour

SOUTH Staffordshire MP Gavin Williamson visited a rural brewery to hear about its plans for growth.

Enville Brewery, which recently celebrated its 21st birthday, is investing in a new fermenting vessel with a capacity of 3,500 litres.

It will also launch a bottled version of its famed Enville Ale in September after a trial run sold out. The brewery sells its beer to 150 outlets.

"The Enville Ale was recently stocked by the House of Commons Bar and I know was enjoyed tremendously," said Mr Williamson.

Talks at archive

A LOCAL history day giving tips to people researching their family tree will take place on Saturday.

There will be talks from guest speakers and ancestry research advice at Dudley Archives centre in Tipton Road, from 10am until 4pm.

Glimpse of park's proposed visitor centre



An artist's impression of the £2.5m visitor centre

THIS artist's impression gives a glimpse to what will greet thousands of visitors arriving for the day at picturesque parkland that is bidding to become a major tourist attraction.

Proposals for a new £2.5 million visitor centre to be built in the grounds of Hagley Hall, near Stourbridge, have been revealed.

Lord Cobham, who owns the hall and surrounding Hagley Park, hopes to reopen the park which had been closed for more than three decades. He aims to use income from up to 100,000 visitors a year to pay vast costs associated with maintaining

the 18th century hall and its 300-acre park including the landmark Wychbury Obelisk.

The centre would be built on fields off the A456, opposite the Badgers Sett pub, under proposals with a new link roadway being constructed off the dual carriageway.

It will incorporate education and history exhibitions showcasing Hagley Hall and park through the ages and include study areas for visiting school children.

There will also be a restaurant, gift shop and outdoor seating area for visitors to gaze over the rolling hills of the parkland.

Accommodation for a ranger is also part

of the plans alongside a children's play area. There are also outline plans to create a car park for up to 180 vehicles including coaches.

Lord Cobham said he hoped the visitor numbers could put the venue on par with the Black Country Living Museum and Severn Valley Railways as a major West Midlands attraction. "It would be a huge attraction for this part of the world," he said. "It's very important to bring back the 18th century park for the public."

The plans will be discussed by Bromsgrove District Council.

Extra places needed at schools across borough

THREE schools could be expanded to admit almost 400 extra pupils as a governing education authority struggles against a growing demand for spaces.

Dudley Council has already created an additional 145 reception class spaces at nine of its schools ahead of the beginning of the new academic year in September.

Show success means more staff needed

EXTRA curators are being recruited to four town halls by council bosses to help cope with an increase in bookings for shows.

Dudley Council is looking to take on the additional staff to work at its venues in the borough. An average of around 180,000 visitors attend shows at Stourbridge Town Hall, Dudley Town Hall, Brierley Hill Civic Hall and the Cornbow in Halesowen each year.

The council says it needs to take on additional three casual curators, taking the total to six. Bosses say during busy periods they do not have enough staff on site. Bookings are taken seven days a week and have steadily increased during the last six years.

There are more than 15 professional shows between now and the end of the year with comedians John Bishop and Jasper Carrott as well as productions by Viva Musica Choir and Ballet Cymru on the Entertainment Live programme. There are also amateur productions, film screenings, dances and other events.

But the council has now unveiled further proposals for 210 extra places at Sledmere Primary School in Dudley, 105 for Gig Mill Primary in Stourbridge and 70 for Kate's Hill Primary School for September 2015.

Council officers are also considering providing extra spaces at Hob Green Primary School in Stourbridge, Howley Grange Primary School in Halesowen and Netherton Primary School for next year.

The plans come as officers predict a surge in demand for primary school places over the next three years.

According to forecasts, they are predicting demand for an additional 1,000 spaces.

The proposal will be decided by Councillor Tim Crumpton, cabinet member for children's services and lifelong learning.

This week Councillor Crumpton said: "We have got a few areas in the borough where birth rate has been increasing which means we now have to consider providing more spaces at local schools for children coming through.

"It's not a major problem, there are other areas in the country which are under more pressure.

"It is simply a logical solution to expand the entry classes in a number of schools to meet demand."

Volunteers create memorial garden



Sanjay Verma, 19 from Halesowen, and Curate Rev Sarah Brush at the church garden area created by volunteers

GREEN fingered volunteers have spruced up the grounds of a Black Country church as part of a project organised by the Prince's Trust.

St Peter's Church in Cradley has undergone a garden makeover thanks to a group of 12 volunteers from Wolverhampton City College. The clean up campaign was undertaken over 10 days and volunteers, all aged between 16-25, celebrated their hard work with a small garden party organised by the church.

Team leader Nicki Tinker said: "The community project at the church included creating a memorial area for people who have lost a child or suffered a miscarriage. It is a quiet area where we have planted some bulbs and added some seating."

The 55-year-old from Netherton added: "We have also cleared an area for a memorial orchard where people can plant fruit trees in memory of a loved one. The volunteers have spent the past two weeks digging up over

grown bramble and weeds. They have really got stuck in and got their hands dirty as part of their 12-week personal development programme."

The Prince's Trust volunteer group visits the church every six months.

Volunteer Louie Memdy, 23, from Handsworth, said: "It has been really good to be involved. It is for a great cause and the garden looks beautiful now. It feels good to have created somewhere peaceful and special for people to remember their loved ones."

NEWS in brief

Learn about the lost mansions

LOST Mansions of the Black Country will be the subject of a history talk on Tuesday by local historian Ian Bott.

The Wyre Forest Historical Research Group meeting, open to visitors, is at the Corn Exchange at Kidderminster Town Hall at 2pm.

There is a small entry fee which includes refreshments.

For details call 01562 746370 or email the group's secretary at wfhr@hot mail.co.uk

£1m project to stop brook flood

DUDLEY Council is using a grant of £1.4 million to tackle flooding on Mous-esweet Brook near Woodland Avenue, Cradley.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said: "The existing culvert is made of brick and as a result has deteriorated over the years, making it more prone to blockage."

Initial work includes surveys with the work on the culvert due to follow in May.

It is hoped the work will take around six months to complete.

Dart Charge to mean more jobs

MORE than 20 skilled jobs are being created in Birmingham ready for Dart Charge, which launches this year to improve journeys at the Dartford Crossing near London.

The Highways Agency is creating 23 jobs at its National Traffic Control Centre in Quinton as a result of the scheme, that also sees Sanef investing over £1 million in a support centre in Leeds.

Cadets launching charity fundraiser

SANDWELL Sea Cadets are planning a charity day to be held at the Sir Robert Peel pub, in Birmingham Road, Blackheath, on Saturday.

Raffles, prize giveaways and games will be taking place from 1pm as part of the fundraising day at the pub, along with face painting and a barbecue.

Seven home plan

PLANS for seven homes on land off Cochrane Road, Brierley Hill, have been lodged with Dudley Council planners. Jay Allied Assets has submitted proposals for four semi-detached and three terraced houses.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



HERE'S the sort of thing that makes people angry with big corporations. A couple of days ago our troubled landline packed up yet again. The phone was dead but the broadband was working perfectly. So I went online to the BT page which invites us to: "manage your BT line problems. Troubleshoot issues, report and track faults." I entered the phone number into the appropriate box. Back came the message: "Please note that faults on this line cannot be reported via BT.com - please call 0800 800 151." In other words, there's a fault on your phone, so please give us a phone call.

□□□□□□□□

THREE alien species are being targeted for extermination by Defra, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. I can see them bumping off the Indian house crow and the quagga mussel without too many problems. But what reckless, fate-tempting fool will raise his shotgun against the third species, the sacred ibis? The clue is in the name. There is something about shooting an Egyptian sacred ibis that combines those twin follies of killing albatrosses and desecrating a Pharaoh's tomb. How long before those who slaughter the sacred ibis are discovered to be suffering from anything from sudden death to an ingrown toenail? I bet the headline writers are already on the case: "Curse of the Sacred Ibis." Don't you just love the silly season?

□□□□□□□□

WONGA is to pay £2.6 million in compensation to thousands of people to whom it sent fake letters from bogus law firms. In the meantime, Wonga has invoked the H-word. In a statement it says: "Wonga's focus is on compensating the customers affected by the historic debt collection letters." Historic? The word, as used these days, means "Nothing to do with me, squire. It was all a long time ago." But Wonga's wicked letters were sent out between 2008 and 2010. Hardly the Middle Ages, was it?

□□□□□□□□

M&S men's shorts now claim "active waist moves with you." The worst waists, of course, are the ones that move off by themselves. My waist went missing in 1997 and I didn't see it again until 2012.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Pc and sister helped with running brothels

THE sister of a West Midlands police officer has been convicted of helping him and others in the running of brothels in the West End of London.

Raheela Ali and her husband Nassar Ali had pleaded not guilty at Warwick Crown Court to conspiring to manage or assist in the management of brothels and conspiring to launder the proceeds.

by Heather Large

Her brother, Pc Osman Iqbal, who is suspended by the force, had also denied the charges and a further offence of possessing cocaine with intent to supply it to brothel customers.

But Iqbal, aged 36, whose home address in Birmingham cannot be given, changed his pleas on all three charges to guilty just days before the trial began earlier this month.

Sauna

Nassar Ali, aged 50, of Buxton Road, Ilford, Essex, changed his pleas to guilty part-way through the trial but Raheela Ali, aged 44, of the same address, maintained her innocence. However, the jury found her guilty.

The jury had heard that four other people had pleaded guilty at earlier hearings to the brothel conspiracy and possessing cocaine with intent to supply it.

They included Jennifer

Williams, aged 31, of Furlong Lane, Cradley Heath, along with Talib Hussain, 33, of Douglas Avenue, Hodge Hill, Birmingham, his brothers Atif, 26, and Asri Hussain, 24, both of Silver Birch Close, Saltley.

Giving evidence for the prosecution, Jennifer Williams said she had first met Talib while she was working at a sauna in Birmingham and he took her to a brothel which had been set up in London to cash in on the build-up to the 2012 Olympics. She later moved to a larger premises where she became 'the maid' in charge of the girls around the time the Olympics began.

Taxi drivers would be paid £150 for each client they took to the brothel and the clients would pay £300 an hour per girl. Customers could also buy cocaine. Sentences will be passed at a later date.

Tennis outfit smashes estimate



The dress from the iconic 1970s poster attracted bids

IT'S the white tennis dress from the iconic poster which was on the bedroom walls of teenage boys around the globe. Stourbridge model Fiona Walker is the cheeky tennis player hitching up her skirt.

Now the handmade outfit from the Tennis Girl poster from the 1970s has sold for £15,500 at auction. Bids flooded in for the piece of 1970s history at Pieldings Auctioneers in Stourbridge, including one bidder as far away as New Zealand.

Final

The lot, which also included two posters and a tennis racquet, exceeded expectations after experts thought it could fetch up to £2,000, on Saturday — the day of the ladies Wimbledon final.

Bidders batted the price back and forth in person and over the phone and the internet as they vied to secure the dress for their own. It smashed its estimates by more than seven fold with bidders outdoing one another until the hammer fell for an anonymous buyer on the phone.

Jail term for leader of heroin smugglers

SELF-EMPLOYED delivery driver Tahir Mahmood, a father-of-two from Stourbridge, has been jailed for leading a heroin smuggling enterprise and will serve 16 years in prison.

The 53-year-old from Ridge Grove was sentenced at Birmingham Crown Court. Mr Tim Hannam, prosecuting, said he had close links with the source of the drug in Pakistan and was involved in almost every step of its importation into Europe. He had two colleagues in Spain he would use to recruit mules and arrange for their passage across the globe.

Sometimes hidden in cases, the drugs would leave Pakistan with the couriers. One mule was due to hide the drugs in specially-created shoes but they did not fit, so he had to stash the drugs in his case. Sometimes Mahmood met the couriers at Birmingham Airport.

Mr Hannam said: "Each importation of heroin began in Pakistan with officials at either Karachi or Lahore airports being corrupted in order to allow the drugs to bypass the security procedures in place. The courier and the drugs travelled via various interconnecting flights to Europe."

Mahmood will face a further hearing to see how much money he has to pay from his assets.



Carribean Carnival celebrations at New Square!

11th & 12th July, 11am - 4pm

It's carnival time at New Square! Come and join in the fun to celebrate our 1st birthday.

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NEW SQUARE SET TO CELEBRATE FIRST BIRTHDAY WITH CARNIVAL PARTY AND FAMILY FUN

A carnival themed party will arrive at New Square West Bromwich this Friday and Saturday to celebrate the shopping centre's first birthday.

The two-day extravaganza, taking place on the 11th and 12th July will include calypso music, dancing, family games, surf simulator, face painting, street food and even a limbo competition!

The carnival atmosphere will be created with live music from a steel pan calypso band and the smells from the Caribbean Food Shack — serving traditional street food. Shoppers will also be entertained by Limbo performers as they demonstrate their skills and flexibility — giving away prizes to those who are brave enough to get down low and give it a go themselves!

On Saturday New Square will resemble Rio as professional Carnival Dancers arrive to perform a number of show stopping routines around the shopping centre. Also on Saturday there will be a range of fun activities for the family to enjoy, such as a surf simulator, juice bikes and free face painting.

Many of New Square's stores and restaurants will also be entering into to the party spirit, with a range of offers and competitions. Outfit will be giving away hundreds of gift cards plus a free nail bar in store, while Nando's and Harvester have a range of activities planned including free sampling, fancy dress and giveaways.



New Square would like as many people as possible to get into the party spirit and is asking customers to take carnival themed selfies at the centre and post them on Facebook or Twitter using the hashtag #NewSquareselfie — the best picture will win a £100 worth of Outfit vouchers.

They'll also be a chance for visitors to win The Ultimate New Square Experience — the prize will include shopping and restaurant vouchers from retailers such as Bank, Outfit, Primark, Blue Inc, Nando's and Harvester, plus cinema ticket for Odeon and a host of other freebies!

All activities are free and take place between 11am-4pm.

For more information visit:

www.newsquarewestbromwich.co.uk

www.facebook.com/

NewSquareWestBromwich

Follow the celebrations via social media using the hashtag #NewSquareCarnival

Pro golfer admitted possessing porn images

A GOLF professional has admitted to possessing more than 2,800 indecent images.

Guy Dean, who has worked at golf clubs across the Black Country and Staffordshire, appeared at Stafford Crown Court on Monday.

The 44-year-old, of Pelsall Lane, Bloxwich, admitted seven charges of making indecent images of a child and two of possessing extreme pornographic images.

Dean also pleaded guilty to possessing three images of extreme pornography and five pornographic images involving animals. He had more than 2,800 pictures and one video.

Miss Catherine O'Reilly, defending Dean, told the court a psychiatric report on her client was being prepared.

Judge Mark Eades adjourned the case and Dean was released on unconditional bail.

Dean started his professional career at Beaudesert Golf Club, Cannock, in 1986. In 1996 was at South Staffordshire Golf Club. He was also head professional at Dartmouth Golf Club, West Bromwich, before he spent five years as head professional at Dudley Golf Club, Rowley Regis, from 2000. In 2005 he became head professional at Penn Golf Club, a post that he left in April 2013 after his resignation.

700k grant is aiming to help people stay healthy

ALMOST £700,000 will be spent trying to get people in the Black Country to do at least 30 minutes of exercise a week.

The project Black Country in Motion will be launched tomorrow in Dudley.

Chiefs behind the initiative have highlighted two areas each in the boroughs of Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton to target getting inactive people back into sport.

by Jon Pritchard

The programme is set to run until March 2016, thanks to £484,910 from Sport England and more than £200,000 of funding from partners.

The aim is to get 3,000 people doing 30 minutes of exercise a week by March 2016. The funding will also pay for a PhD research study led by the University of Wolverhampton, while the programme will also be training up local people with sports qualifications.

It is then hoped that they will continue offering sport and physical activity in the local areas for years to come.

Andy Webb, head of sport and physical activity at Dudley Council said: "Black Country in Motion will engage local people in physical activity programmes on their doorstep."

The programme will target people in Castle and Priory and Netherton and Woodside in Dudley, Smethwick and Tipton Green in Sandwell, Blakenall and

Bentley and Darlaston North in Walsall and East Park and Bilston East in Wolverhampton. Mr Webb said: "Volunteer support for the initiative will make the different elements of the programme sustainable."

Black Country in Motion is run by the Black Country BeActive Partnership, who promote sport and physical activity in the area. They are hosting a Community Fun Day on Friday to launch the Black Country in Motion programme.

The fun day will start at 12.45pm at Priory Park in Dudley, and activities will continue until 4pm. Dudley North MP Ian Austin MP, along with three Black Country mayors and project volunteers, will be officially cutting the ribbon to start a jog around the park. Activities will take place from 12.45 until 4pm. See www.blackcountryinmotion.co.uk

Sunshine smiles at town's carnival



Carnival street performers Jo Terry, of Stourbridge, and Jane Stephens, of Wednesbury

ALL the fun of the carnival from music and dance to fairground rides and market stalls filled Stourbridge town centre as thousands basked in the sunshine.

The event, in its 27th year, attracted one of its biggest crowds with High Street and Market Street full of families enjoying the entertainment. A colourful parade with a World Cup theme made its way through the town, accompanied by a marching band and stilt walkers.

Britain's Got Talent salsa granny Paddy Jones was the guest of honour to help judge the carnival princess competition. Prizes and certificates were handed out to the walking groups with top trophy going to the Fantasy Dance academy for their football-themed costumes. The runner up award went to the Stourbridge Fairtrade group.

As well as the host of charity and food stalls the High Street, Stourbridge Carnival was this year linked with the Black Country Festival, a month-long celebration in honour of Black Country Day on July 14.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Medics' fleet of new 4x4 vehicles

MORE than a dozen new 4x4 ambulances are to be introduced in the West Midlands under a £2.2 million investment from the region's ambulance service.

The 16 Mercedes vehicles will mean paramedics will be able to reach patients in difficult weather and muddy off-road conditions.

The fleet is being brought in by West Midlands Ambulance Service, which already has more than 300 ambulances and 200 rapid response vehicles. It is hoped each hub, including Willenhall, West Bromwich and Dudley, will get its own 4x4 vehicle.

The cost of one new 4x4 ambulance is £140,000 compared to £100,000 for a standard ambulance.

Challenge for young readers

AN ANNUAL summer reading challenge will launch on Saturday and Dudley Council has organised events to mark the start of the challenge in borough libraries.

Children aged four to 11 have until September 14 to read six books.

This year's challenge has mythology theme.

Poet Chris White will be at Stourbridge Library on launch day at 11am, there will be an illustration workshop with Laura Howell at Long Lane library from 10.30am and myths treasure hunt at Dudley Library from 2.30pm.

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews

RETURNING from a brief spell in Europe, one thing always strikes me is how much better the town centres over there seem to be doing compared to those in this country.

One reason is unquestionably down to the fact that while in this country, local councils seem bent on making people walk as far as possible from their cars to the shops – take for example the ridiculous block paving outside the Express & Star offices in Queen Street, which seems to have at a stroke slashed the number of on-street parking spaces.

But the other thing is that all the shops open in the evening. It has always struck me as quite absurd how nearly all the shops in our town centres open just as everybody arrives at work, and then shut just at the same time as people return. Wouldn't it be a really clever idea for shops to maybe start trading a couple of hours later, say at 11am, and stay open to maybe 9 pm?

JUST when you thought there was nothing left that Benefits Street star Deirdre 'White Dee' Kelly could do that would surprise you, she has finally decided to tell the world she has been off benefits for the past three months. Wonders will never cease. She has also fired a broadside at fellow celebrity chav Josie Cunningham.

White Dee says Cunningham, the 23-year-old would-be 'glamour model' who bragged about how she got her £4,800 breast enhancement on the NHS to help with her career, is 'rubbing the taxpayers' nose in it' with her incessant gloating about how much she is taking off the State.

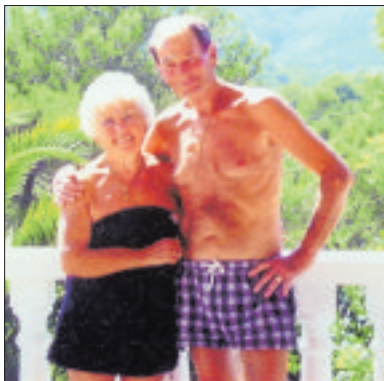
It really comes to something when White Dee thinks you are lowering the tone. Meanwhile, it seems Josie has been offered a book deal, where she will no doubt wax lyrical about how her NHS surgery enabled her to embark on a spell as a £1,000-a-night 'escort' before becoming pregnant by a client.

The book will be in Josie's own words and completely unedited. No doubt in a few years' time, it will be appearing on the National Curriculum. In the mean time I'm sure we can all have a lot of fun colouring it in.

ANOTHER testament to the British education system comes in the shape of 19-year-old Zach Jackson, who found even the task of street robbery too much for his tiny brain to take in.

Because he found the work so gruelling, he compiled a helpful little checklist offering himself a bit of advice on how to complete the work successfully.

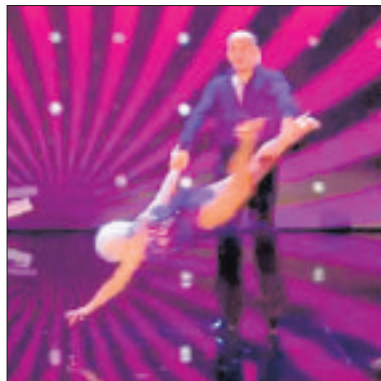
"Wear black clothes, gloves, warm up before doing it, watch out for CCTV, grab," were his pearls of wisdom for how to make it as an effective mugger. One tip, Zach. You're much less likely to get caught if you don't write down the instructions.



Paddy with her late husband David in Spain



Paddy receives flowers from Wolverley head Bryn Thomas



The great granny in action with dance partner Nico Espinosa

'I'll keep dancing as long as I can'

The octogenarian salsa dancer from Stourbridge isn't ready to quit, she tells CHARLOTTLE LILLEY

SHE is the hip-shaking, nimble-footed great-grandmother who stunned the nation as she was thrown around the dance-floor by her younger partner.

Jaws dropped as Paddy Jones twirled around the Britain's Got Talent stage earning herself a standing ovation from all four judges.

As she celebrates her 80th birthday, she has revealed she has no plans to hang up her dancing shoes yet, vowing to carry on as long as she can.

Golden

Paddy, from Stourbridge, won the hearts of the nation when she was put straight through to the final of the ITV1 show after judge Amanda Holden pressed her golden buzzer.

She says: "Since appearing on the show my life has been incredible and now I want to encourage people to go for their dreams and not give up.

"My mother was a singer and she wanted to be professional but my grandpa said no and told her she had to stay in Stourbridge. I think she lived her life through me. I started dancing at the age of two and later started drama and elocution lessons because, living in the Black Country, elocution is important. I was 12 when I did my first professional show at Dudley Hippodrome and 15 when I left school to go into theatre."

Paddy performed in Dudley, Wolverhampton, Birmingham and Blackpool before meeting her late husband, David, at the age of 16. She decided to give up dancing aged 22 to start a family and ran a shop called Paddy's Fabrics in Victoria Passage, Stourbridge.



'I have no intention of giving up just yet,' says 80-year-old Paddy Jones

In 2001 the couple decided to move to Spain but sadly their move was delayed when David was diagnosed with leukaemia. After nine months of treatment at Russells Hall Hospital, he was well enough to go and they enjoyed a few happy months there before the disease returned. He died in March 2003.

Paddy took up Latin-American dance lessons to keep herself busy and rediscovered her love of dance. Her teacher Nico Espinosa, 40 years her junior, recognised her potential and together they started working on routines.

we didn't know what to think. Nico was besides himself and burst into tears. It was an incredible feeling.

"Amanda has been an absolutely wonderful person and a fantastic mentor. She is so down to earth and is incredibly supportive because she sent flowers to Spain when I cracked my ribs."

Since she started dancing again, Paddy, whose real name is Sarah Patricia Jones, has travelled to North and South America, Europe and Israel.

Peru

She competed in Showmatch, the Argentinian version of Strictly Come Dancing but failed to reach the final. The pair have also performed at the World Salsa Congress in Peru.

In 2010 she was entered into the Guinness World Record books for being the oldest salsa acrobatic dancer.

"I received a medal after appearing in the book which I treasure very much because it is a fantastic achievement," says Paddy. "It has been a very exciting few years and I have really enjoyed myself and since the show ended I have had a lot of job offers."

"Nico and I have been invited to appear on India's Got Talent as guest performers which is exciting. I have also been asked to perform on a cruise ship for three months but that is just too long because I have a home, a garden, a dog and a cat in Spain and I can't abandon them."

"I will carry on dancing for as long as I am able to. I have no intention of giving up just yet."

Last week Paddy marked her 80th birthday by giving a talk about her experiences to students at Wolverley CE Secondary School near Kidderminster.

The mother-of-four and grandmother-of-seven comes back to the West Midlands every four months from her home in Spain to visit friends and family. She says: "I miss Stourbridge, I love coming back and seeing everyone I know. I'm a Stourbridge girl at heart."

WEEK IN POLITICS

with Daniel Wainwright

THE sudden death of West Midlands police and crime commissioner Bob Jones has left a void that many think cannot be filled – even though the law says they must do so in just over a month.

Were the loss of a public servant respected even by his political opponents not enough, the police have now been left dealing with one of the more absurd parts of the statute that created the post in the first place.

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act that gave rise to the 2012 elections of PCCs requires a by-election be held 'not more than 35 days after the relevant event'.

Councillor Darren Cooper, who chairs the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel, found himself in the unenviable position of having to discuss how to replace Mr Jones within four hours of being told of his passing.

There then followed a debate between Government departments over whether '35 days' meant calendar or business days and whether the 'relevant event' (such a cold and clinical term) meant Mr Jones' passing or some formal notification.

If we leave aside the gross insensitivity of a law that requires a vacancy to be filled so quickly, it is also a bureaucratic nightmare.

The PCC for the West Midlands covers not fewer than seven council areas. Three of them are cities and one of those is Birmingham, the second biggest in the country.

Then there will be the work for the political parties and candidates, who must select people to stand for them and get all the paperwork through.

There will need to be the time to come up with campaign literature.

Meanwhile the work of the PCC must continue. An interim appointment will be made later this month.

But what happens if the temporary post holder, likely to be deputy PCC Yvonne Mosquito, wants to throw her hat into the ring?

Will she be allowed to campaign while technically the incumbent?

All the while, we continue to mourn the loss of Bob Jones CBE, who never believed the role of a PCC should exist in the first place.

In a letter to the Express & Star in 2012, thanking voters and pledging to serve everyone, regardless of how or even if they voted, Mr Jones wrote: "I believe police and crime commissioners are an expensive and unnecessary change, poorly implemented and appallingly publicised."

Were he with us today he would be within his rights to say the chaos following his death had proved him correct.

But he'd be too busy quietly getting on with the job for that.

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Latest departure is a big loss for listeners

ADRIAN Goldberg has announced that he will be leaving Radio WM this August. I, and doubtless many of his listeners, wish him well and hope that he will further his career in broadcasting.

Many regretted the departure of the warm and friendly Carl Chinn last year. The reasons for his leaving are still unclear. What replaced him has done nothing to help the sense of community which Carl encouraged.

Radio WM has turned into a mish-mash of inappropriate pop music with the occasional item of local interest.

What was once an enjoyable listen has now become a quick grasp at the volume control to turn down screeching music and loud trailers.

Ed Doolan left a considerable gap when he semi retired, and, like Carl, has not been remotely replaced in the affections of listeners.

I was listening to Radio Bristol the other day and the presenter was a most agreeable chap. No telling callers to hurry up because 'they had to go to travel news'. No raucous music. It was all very well done. Are listeners in the West Midlands so very different that

we don't deserve the same? Don't get me wrong. Some of the output of WM is very good. Iain Lee on Saturday mornings is witty and obliging to his listeners. Adrian Goldberg and Caroline Martin are good but why litter the latter's show with inane music when she is so good at reacting to her audience?

So WM, get Mr Chinn back and scout around for someone to fill the gap when Adrian leaves. Perhaps Les Ross might be encouraged to return? And, for goodness sake, cut the amount of music.

C K MILLWARD, Tipton

Get them to collect their post

RE dog attacks on posties

When I was a lad I delivered morning and evening newspapers around our estate and you knew which houses had dogs that were troublesome to paper boys, so I know what's it's like for the postmen delivering letters.

Dog owners have a responsibility to ensure their dogs are out of bounds until the post has been delivered. There are people who are not responsible.

There has been a 15 percent increase over the last twelve months in Dudley and Wolverhampton — that is 39 postmen who have been bitten.

There is a simple answer to this. The post office should inform the people where there are nuisance dogs that their post will be at the post office waiting for them to collect it themselves

B WHITEHOUSE,
Kingswinford

LETTERS

to the Editor

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Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
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Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

E-MAIL

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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Don't forget the two-wheeled menace

THE reaction of normal, sensible people to the recent Chronicle and Express & Star reports that Dudley and other councils have joined forces to get an injunction against the so called 'boy racers' who infest many of our main roads and side streets, will be 'and about time too!'

It's nothing short of a miracle that no one has been killed or seriously injured by one of these morons on Birmingham Road as they roar off Burntree Tesco car park and onto the Southern Bypass.

And I've lost count of the number of occasions that two or more of them, who were obviously racing each other, have gone by me on the bypass as If I were standing still.

Anti-social behaviour is cited as one of the reasons for seeking the injunction against them, so hopefully the same councils will not stop there and will go after another equally idiotic group — namely those who ride around aimlessly at all hours of the day and night on their silly little motor scooters that sound like demented wasps.

R A SARGEANT,
Dudley

Nature but not dogs

REGARDING the appointment of a new chief executive of the local Wildlife Trusts (Chronicle, June 19), wouldn't you say that 'forty-two grand' was rather a lot for managing a series of dog runs?

Just where in the region might a civilised man enjoy the wonders of nature without an artificial canine's bark or some hateful hound jumping-up and sniffing his midriff?

DAVID AUSTIN,
High Street,
The Lye,
Stourbridge

World Cup cuts the bill

THE only good thing I have to say about this World Cup is thank you for the huge saving in electricity bills — our television has been off more than it has been on. There are actually people who don't want to watch football, so why do we have to put up with it night after night on all channels.

J JAMES, Wordsley

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Talk about hospital an eye-opener

WALSALL CENTRAL

AS the chairman of Walsall Central Townswomen's Guild was on vacation the chairman-elect Ann Smith fronted the July meeting.

Following the formal matters it was announced that due to unforeseen circumstances the scheduled speaker for the evening was unable to be present, but the speakers' secretary had been lucky enough to secure the aid of Lawrence Parkes, whose "day job" was Federation Treasurer but was also passionately involved in the charity Hamlin Fistula UK.

This charity supported the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital in Ethiopia which had been set up in 1974 by Drs Reginald and Catherine Hamlin.

It cares for women with devastating childbirth and related injuries. All care, treatment and surgery is completely free of charge.

Since its opening, great advancements have been made, but there remains much more to be achieved. Unfortunately Dr Reginald Hamlin died in 1993, but his wife, Catherine - now 90 years of age - continues with the work they began together.

The presentation by Lawrence was truly eye-opening and everyone in the room that evening felt very humbled by the wonderful work being carried out.

The chairman-elect announced that future social events included a cream tea at the home of the chairman Pat Jones on July 17 and there will be a coffee morning/bring and buy at a member's home on August 5.

Friendships formed in twinning venture



Pennants are exchanged to mark the twinning of Sandwell and Manzini Lions

SANDWELL LIONS

SANDWELL Lions Club have successfully twinned with Manzini Lions Club in Swaziland, Southern Africa.

Two club members visited the country in May to attend a twinning ceremony. This was the culmination of 12 months of communication between the two clubs to work together in a joint venture.

Sandwell members Ray and Ann Staniland of Oldbury used to live in Swaziland and were keen to have some input in assisting with a local project in Manzini.

The project involved is building a basic two-room house for a grandmother of seven

who lost their wattle and mud home in a fire. A cheque was presented to Manzini Lions for £1,000 to assist with this project. Pennants were exchanged and friendships formed.

Sandwell Lions Club meet every first and third Tuesday at St Huberts church hall, Clent Road Oldbury at 8pm. Anyone wishing to make friends and help people less fortunate, together, with great social events, is invited to attend an informal meeting.

Laburnum Arch in full flower

PENN TG

MRS Sutton introduced Mr & Mrs Fawdrey with a talk entitled 'Only when the Plane comes in'.

Mr Fawdrey described how the MAF, Mission Aviation Fellowship, came into being.

After the Second World War, there were many pilots and engineers who were willing to give their services to the Christian Aviation

charity. In many isolated communities a visit to hospital could mean a two to three day walk, but with MAF, it becomes an 11-minute flight. They now operate in 25 developing countries.

The Gardening Group enjoyed a visit to Bodnant Gardens in North Wales and were lucky enough to

see the Laburnum Arch in full flower.

Social Studies speaker was Iain Watkins, head of marketing & communications at the Grand Theatre.

A strawberry supper for members only takes place on July 23.

Meetings are held at Penn United Community Hall, Penn Road. New members and visitors are welcome.

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Leader attacks 'abuse of power'

DANIEL WAINWRIGHT speaks to a veteran Black Country councillor who fears the impact of cuts

DRASTIC cuts in council funding are part of an 'abuse of power' by the Government, according to senior Dudley councillor David Sparks.

Were he 'merely' the leader of a metropolitan borough council, a 37-year veteran of local politics, it might not be an unusual remark. But Councillor Sparks is the first West Midlands chairman of the influential Local Government Association.

He has just taken up the post, overseeing the national body that represents all but two local authorities in England, and as such his words carry a weight far beyond the borough of Dudley.

Warnings

Now, he makes a series of stark warnings, saying:

Cuts in funding to councils are so severe that many will do nothing more than look after vulnerable adults and children within four or five years.

Council tax is in need of a major reform or even replacement.

Authorities in the West Midlands must have a greater say over their funding to compete with London and Greater Manchester.

Local democracy has been 'eroded' by Westminster politicians taking more control.

There is 'no more money' to give workers going on strike today (July 10) the pay rises they demand.

The Dudley Council leader is quietly angry at how councils have been banned from raising council tax by



Dudley's David Sparks has been appointed chairman of the local government association

more than two per cent without holding a referendum, something no authority would ever win.

"The fundamental abuse of power has been how local councils have been singled out by the Government to bear the brunt of public expenditure cuts," said Councillor Sparks.

"For the past 20 years there has been a gradual erosion in the freedom of individual citizens to determine the local services themselves," says 65-year-old local government veteran. "This has now resulted in a system of government that is broken."

"Councils have been cut back to a level that they can no longer satisfy the minimum standards that their

citizens want. Some, such as Wolverhampton, have even said they were on the verge of bankruptcy. We also know that English councils get a raw deal when compared with Scotland and Wales."

"The elephant in the room is the council tax system," Councillor Sparks says. "It has never been fundamentally reviewed since it came into effect in 1993."

He says he wants to see a combined authority for the West Midlands, bringing Birmingham together with the Black Country. It sounds suspiciously like Greater Birmingham.

"I'm not bothered what you call it," added the Labour councillor.

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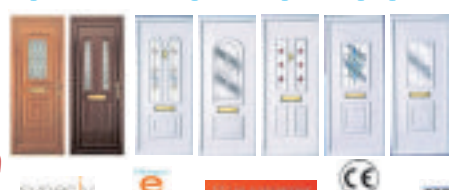
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NEWS
in brief

Air scouts fund a new war memorial

A NEW memorial will take pride of place at an event to commemorate the Battle of Britain thanks to the fundraising efforts of a scout group.

Halfpenny Green Air Scout Group raised around £350 to contribute towards the construction of the tribute, which has been erected at the entrance to Halfpenny Green Airport, near Stourbridge.

The piece was produced by Wombourne Funeral Services & Memorials on Bridgnorth Road who also provided a proportion of the funding.

It is set to take centre stage at the group's upcoming Battle of Britain Memorial Service which will be held at the airport at 10.30am on September 14.

Dance and drama on city streets

A FESTIVAL returns for a second year with three weekends of free outdoor performances around Birmingham Hippodrome.

Summer in Southside will take place on August 9, 16, 23 and 24 with 100 artists taking part.

Performances will take place around Hurst Street and the Arcadian centre, ranging from drama to dance and circus skills.

Events run from 1pm to 7pm on each of the days.

Artists from the Midlands will perform on August 9 and European acts on August 16.

The free festival will culminate in a Bank Holiday jamboree on August 23 and 24.

Village housing scheme starts despite opposition

WORK has begun on a controversial development of 175 homes in Hagley, despite thousands campaigning against it.

Developer Cala Homes has started constructing the first of the properties on land off Kidderminster Road.

The developer is starting work to revamp the A456 Kidderminster Road roundabout and junction of Kidderminster Road and Worcester Road as well as installing crossings. This part of the scheme is expected to take 26 weeks.

The housing project has been criticised by residents concerned it will worsen traffic problems and put pressure on facilities. A petition signed by 4,000 opposed the plans. Outline planning permission for the development was approved by Bromsgrove District Council last year despite objections from Hagley Parish Council, before district councillors approved the detailed proposals in September.

Work pledge is extended

A CAMPAIGN to increase the number of volunteering opportunities for young people is to continue for the rest of the year.

Dudley Council for Voluntary Service (DCVS) and Dudley Council ran a month-long campaign, called Youth Pledge 100, during June, which was also Volunteers Month. The aim was to persuade organisations to commit to providing volunteering opportunities.

The two organisations launched the campaign as a response to the low number of volunteering opportunities that exist locally for 15 to 25-year olds.

In June eight organisations pledged to provide a volunteering placement. Now organisers hope that up to 100 organisations will be encouraged to make the pledge.

Eileen Fielding, development officer at Dudley CVS, said: "There is a desperate need in the region for opportunities for young people to try out and learn new skills."

Mayor of Dudley Councillor Margaret Aston, the council's volunteering champion, added: "We're grateful to the organisations that have signed up to the pledge and we are hoping that many more do so."

Concept

The Wychbury Fields development will feature two, three, four and five bedroom homes. Cala Homes says the scheme has been designed around a 'village green' concept.

Robert Monkman, sales and marketing director for Cala Homes Midlands, said: "Hagley is a highly aspirational location. This is a flagship development for Cala and we have designed a high quality scheme, which is traditional in design and sensitive to its village location."

"The considerable contribution we will be making to improvements to local infrastructure and services will also mean that the development will benefit the wider community. We have worked very closely with Bromsgrove District Council and the local community to create an aspirational range of new homes for every type of buyer. We have already received a great deal of interest."

The developer will contribute £800,000 towards education facilities and around £85,000 towards improvements at Hagley Surgery, whilst £1 million is being spent on the Kidderminster Road roundabout.

Comic theft no laughing matter



One of the flat-cap wearing suspects is pictured by CCTV

POLICE want to speak to two men in connection with the theft of more than £400 worth of Marvel comics from a shop in Stourbridge.

The theft took place last month at WH Smith in the Ryemarket Shopping Centre in Stourbridge.

The theft happened between 12.17pm and 12.25pm on June 4.

Police have now released CCTV images of the two men they want to speak with in connection to the incident.

Caps

The men, both wearing flat caps, had a wheeled trolley with them.

Anyone with information or anyone who recognises the men is asked to call Pc Nicola Moore on the non-emergency 101 number. Or they can contact independent charity Crime-stoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

A West Midlands Police spokesman added: "Shoplifting is not a victimless crime and can have a detrimental affect on local businesses."

"Law abiding members of the community pay for their shopping, as should everybody else."

Thriller for author as trailer is released

IT IS billed as one of the year's biggest blockbusters with a cast including Nicole Kidman and Colin Firth.

The film adaptation of Black Country author Steve Watson's debut novel Before I Go To Sleep will be released on September 5.

A trailer has been unveiled and anticipation is now building for the film, which went into production two years ago.

Hollywood heavyweights Nicole Kidman and Colin Firth take the lead roles in the adaptation of Mr Watson's book, a tense psychological thriller.

Mr Watson, a former pupil at Wordsley School and King Edward VI Sixth Form College, wrote the novel under the name SJ Watson. He has given the film his blessing and spent a number of days on set in London during filming.

The rights were snapped up by producer Ridley Scott and the movie is directed by Rowan Joffe.

Mr Watson started writing the book as a hobby while working as an audiology specialist in London. It was the fourth best-selling book of 2012, behind the Fifty Shades of Grey trilogy.

The author added: "I went to see filming a few times. It was great, and a very moving experience, but quite surreal. It was amazing to see Nicole Kidman acting out scenes that I had written."

Mr Watson is now working on his follow-up novel.



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Lucky escape for couple after car flips



The car upside down in a field following the accident after it spun off the M42 near Birmingham

A COUPLE walked away unhurt after their car left a motorway and landed upside down in a field.

The car spun off the carriageway between junctions three and two of the M42 in South Birmingham at about 5.10pm on Saturday afternoon as rain lashed down.

An ambulance crew and a senior paramedic officer attended the scene.

The couple were helped from their car and taken to Hopwood Services where they were checked over and said they did not need to go to hospital.

Ambulance spokesman Murray Macgregor said: "There is absolutely no doubt that they were very lucky indeed."

Bomb scare near hospital

BUILDINGS and roads had to be evacuated in Birmingham city centre as bomb disposal teams inspected a suspicious package. The item was delivered to a property on Princip Street, near the Birmingham Children's Hospital and Aston University, at Monday lunchtime. Buildings were evacuated and roads closed off but then a bomb disposal team confirmed the package was not dangerous.

A third of workers in the region pull sickies

ONE in three workers in the West Midlands admits to having pulled a 'sickie' - according to the latest research.

The study found that sick days are costing organisations in the UK more than £23 billion a year, but a large proportion of the sick bill could be preventable. People lying or exaggerating to take time off work accounts for around £9bn of the total bill.

In its survey of over 2,000 UK adults, accountants

PwC found that in the West Midlands the most popular reasons for why people pulled a 'sickie' were hangovers (38 per cent), family responsibilities (36 per cent), job interviews (28 per cent), being bored with their job (20 per cent), and special events such as weddings or christenings (15 per cent).

More than one in 10 (13 per cent) people said they have lied to take time off work to watch a sporting event. Illness is by far the most common excuse but the research reveals that some workers go to highly creative lengths to cover up why they are taking illicit time off work.

Some of the more unusual excuses from West Midlands included going to hospital to get treatment

for a sleep disorder, the exhaust fell off their car and the boiler blew up so they couldn't have a shower. The UK's overall sickness bill - both genuine and made-up - has fallen to £23bn from £29bn a year ago.

But despite the positive trend, UK workers still take seven sick days a year, nearly three times the amount of sick days as their counterparts in Asia Pacific (2.2 days) and nearly double the US (3.8 days).

Central and Eastern Europe has the highest level of sick days at an average of 8.3 a year. PwC partner David Wignall, said: "Despite overall levels of absence falling in the UK, this could be even lower if employers crack down on unwarranted absence."

by Simon Penfold

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Talented teenager is tuning up for the top

A TEENAGER from the Black Country is hoping to sing her way to stardom after reaching the finals of two national competitions.

Holly Wright has been performing at festivals, fairs and fun days across the region for a few years.

But now the 14-year-old from Old Hill is hoping to wow the judges in two national competitions.

The St Michael's pupil will be performing in the grand final of Teen Star at the NEC in Birmingham on Saturday, July 19, before heading to Blackpool on September 26 for the final of Talent Fest UK.

Excited

She said: "I'm not nervous actually, I think I get more excited than anything else."

"I'll be singing Show Me Heaven by Maria McKee, as it's a song I really like."

The potential pop star, from Forest Drive, started singing at the age of nine when her primary school teacher convinced her parents to get her some singing lessons.

Ever since she has been performing around the West Midlands and has even travelled as far as Scotland to put on shows.

Parents Michelle and Andrew have been supporting her through her early career, ferrying her across the country.

Mrs Wright said: "It's mum and dad's taxi - wherever Holly sings we go out, she's taken us up and down the country."

"She got through to the Teen Fest final after a heat in Chepstow in May, and she has been to the NEC twice already in the Teen Star competition."

"We love it, absolutely love it."

"I have said it before, but we don't



Holly Wright, 14, who has reached national finals of two singing competitions

know where her singing comes from, because we don't know anyone else in the family that can sing."

Academy

Holly is now set to go to the Birmingham Ormiston Academy for creative and performing arts in September

to learn more about a career in the arts. She added: "I hope it will bring more confidence into me, and I'll see what choices I can make to see where I want to go."

You can see Holly performing at the OH Festival on Saturday at Spring Meadow Social Club in Old Hill.

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Restaurant proposed at former Conservative club

A FORMER Conservative club in Rowley Regis will be turned into a restaurant creating up to six jobs, if plans are approved.

The proposals submitted to Sandwell Council will see the club empty club in Hawes Lane extended and transformed into a modern eatery, complete with an orangery.

The development would also include the creation of a sports bar, lounge, raised decking and an additional seven car parking spaces for customers.

If the plans are approved by planning chiefs, the new restaurant could bring up to five full-time and two part-time jobs to the town.

The conservative club has been vacant for nearly two years.

Councillor Chris Tranter, ward member for Rowley Regis, said: "I welcome any plan that can bring an improvement to Rowley Regis Conservative club."

"Its location next to a school makes it all the more important as students and parents have to pass it on daily. We also always welcome any new jobs brought into the area."

Rowley Regis Town Service Improvement Board has been working to remove

areas, known as 'grot spots' that include a number of former pubs and bars that have closed down.

As part of the campaign to clean up the town the former Hailstone pub in Springfield Close has been transformed into an Indian restaurant. Meanwhile, the vacant Brickhouse pub in Harvest Road has been transformed into eight flats following a long campaign by residents who faced fly tipping, graffiti and litter. The pub move came after Sandwell Council demanded the owner took action.

Councillor Tranter added that if plans went ahead this would be the next big improvement for the town in its ongoing campaign to tackle 'grot spots'.

by Tom Mason

Pensioner dies after fall

A PENSIONER died from a head injury following a fall. Jean Betts, 87, of Harvest Road, Rowley Regis, was admitted to Russells Hall Hospital on June 27 after the fall, an inquest at Smethwick Council House heard. Coroner Robin Balmain concluded she had died due to an accident.

Libraries to become jazz gig venues

MUSIC lovers in Blackheath will be able to indulge their passion for jazz as the town's library welcomes one of the West Midlands biggest jazz and blues festival.

The library in the High Street will play host to Spanish jazz band on July 25 as part of Birmingham International Jazz and Blues Festival, which is being held for a landmark 30th consecutive year.

Free

The Potato Head Jazz Band from Granada in Spain consists of six musicians and has performed at many notable jazz clubs and festivals.

A similar night will also be held at Cradley Heath Library in Upper High Street on July 18 featuring international blues act The Whisky Brothers.

Both jazz nights open their doors at 7pm and are free, as the city festival aims to involve the Black Country too. For more information contact Cradley Heath library on 01384 569316 or Blackheath library on 0121 559 1884.

Taking place from July 1 to 27, the festival will provide an eclectic mix of jazz with acts from countries ranging from the Czech Republic to the USA. Venues outside the city centre will also include Thimblemill, Great Barr and Wednesbury libraries.

Gearing up for street festivities

HUNDREDS of people are expected to turn out for a free fun day out at the Blackheath Festival later this month.

The event on Saturday, July 26, in Blackheath High Street, is from 1 to 6 pm and includes bands, a funfair, talent show and lots more. The High Street will be closed to traffic from 11am.

There's also lots of children's activities put on by Sandwell Leisure Trust and the Youth Bus will be there.

There will be stalls manned by local traders, Black Country Housing Group and mini-makeovers from Boots and Macmillan Cancer Support. Traders have also donated prizes for a raffle and tombola on the day, including free meals at local eateries.

The free event is in partnership with traders and Black Country Housing Group, which is celebrating its 40th anniversary.

RSPCA plea for shop goods

THE RSPCA are calling on people to donate more items to help with their latest charity drive.

The charity is calling on people to bring in items or organise 'dump or donate day' where people can bring in items to work and someone for the charity will pick the items up. The charity is looking for furniture, clothing and electrical items in particular. Items can be donated to the shop at 6 Oldbury Road, Rowley Regis, or call 0121 559 4698.



Keytracker's Charlotte Mote with the Alcolock device created in Rowley Regis

Device to halt drink drive risk

A ROWLEY Regis manufacturer has launched a new product aimed at helping prevent intoxicated drivers getting behind the wheel of company vehicles.

Keytracker has designed an integrated key cabinet and breathalyser device, which will only release vehicle keys once users have proved that they are sober.

The device - the Alcolock - was designed by Keytracker in response to a request from a major client which had concerns about employees driving forklift trucks whilst under the influence of alcohol.

Keytracker's designers came up with a prototype which has been successfully tested at the forklift company's premises, and it is now being launched on the open market. Keytracker believes that the device will be hugely attractive to the fleet market and logistics companies.

The company is hoping the device will clock up sales of around 100 units in its first three months and plan to market it overseas too.

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Steaming ahead with sci-fi ideas

BODY armour, weapons and other props from popular science fiction films and computer games have been on show at an exhibition. All of the items which were display at Wolverhampton's Central Library, on Snow Hill, were put together by Walsall sci-fi enthusiast Ian Edwards.

He's fascinated by steampunk, a sub-genre of science fiction that typically features steam-powered machinery inspired by 19th century industrialism.

Aerospace worker Mr Edwards, aged 50, of Minewood Close, Bloxwich, has drawn inspiration from television, films, comics and computer games.

But more than anything else, it was Thunderbirds co-creator Gerry Anderson who inspired him as a child. He is hoping his props, including helmets, body armour and futuristic weapons, can do the same for others.

He said: "It's purely a hobby."

Aynuk is the face of painting for festival



Artist David Jones,Councillor Hilary Bills and musician Danni G

HIS cheeky grin and infectious humour is as well known in the Black Country as faggots and paes. And now an image of the popular comic Aynuk is being committed to canvas for an auction as part of Black Country Day celebrations.

Wordsley's Red House Glass Cone is hosting a three-day festival of comedy, music and poetry for the Black Country Festival from Friday to Sunday.

The master of mirth himself is having his mischievous smile recreated for a painting to be auctioned during the weekend. Wollaston artist David Jones, 38, has been commissioned to create a painting of Aynuk, aka Alan Smith, for the festival organised by Dudley Council and KMS events. It will go on sale for charity with proceeds for the day going to the Tettenhall Horse and Donkey Sanctuary.

The festival will kick off with A Black Country Night out tomorrow featuring comedy from Aynuk, Te Fizzogs, Black Country Gaz, Emma Rollason as Dolly Allen and The Spoppers. Tickets £10 are available from www.wegotickets.com.

See also pages 20, 21 and 23

Peppa Pig is guest at Beacon's fundraiser

A CHARITY based in Sedgley is inviting people from across the region to its summer fair, being held to raise vital funds for people who are visually impaired.

The Beacon centre on Wolverhampton Road will host its Summer Extravaganza on Saturday, when the charity will offer entertainment for the family. There face painting and the chance to meet Peppa Pig, and for the rest of the family there will be a variety of stalls,tombola and raffle.

Kelly Vickers, fundraising and events officer at Beacon, said: "Our summer extravaganza is set to be a really fun day out for all the family. They'll be plenty to see and do including a very special visit from Peppa Pig herself. The event starts at 11am and admission is £2 for adults and free for under 14s. All funds raised will go towards supporting local people with sight loss live fuller and more independent lives."

Contact 01902 880 111 to find out more.

Going Solo has left Han with a passport problem

HIS namesake may pilot the Millennium Falcon through a distant galaxy but one Star Wars fan is having trouble popping on a plane to go overseas.

Dominic Kimberley, aged 35, from Stourbridge, changed his name to Han Solo in 2008 as a tribute to his favourite character from the blockbuster film franchise.

But the force wasn't with him when officials refused to renew his passport using his adopted moniker because it is based on a fictional character.

Ever since changing his name, the

accounts manager has introduced himself as Han and has his new name on bank cards and statements.

He has spent hours arguing his case to Home Office managers over the phone but his appeals have been unsuccessful so far.

Now Mr Solo is concerned he is travelling abroad illegally with his old passport, which still uses his original name.

He said: "A chap I knew changed his surname to annoy his dad because they had an argument and told me about it. I didn't realise it was that easy to do so I thought I would have an experiment myself."

"I had booked a holiday to Thailand so sent my passport off with the deed poll letter and they sent it back saying I couldn't change it because it was a fictional character. I rang them and was on the phone for hours going from manager to manager but nobody would sort it out for me.

"I said to them what about Harry Potter or James Bond but they just said it was a point-blank no."

Mr Solo wrongly thought that the Passport Office would simply accept his name change. It has proved to be quite a costly mistake but, just like the rebels taking on the Empire, he is continuing his fight for his passport.



Star Wars fan Han Solo, 35

Hotel evacuated due to a blaze

MORE than 200 people had to be evacuated from a hotel in Birmingham city centre on Tuesday when a fire broke out in a nearby restaurant.

The blaze started just before 6.30am in The Food Republic on Broad Street in Birmingham, and at its height eight fire engines and around 40 firefighters were on the scene.

Investigators

Some 220 guests were evacuated by staff at the Hampton by Hilton Hotel, which is above the restaurant.

The fire was extinguished by 7.50am. Investigators are working on finding the cause of the blaze.

Hotel guests were allowed back inside later in the morning.

Meanwhile, Broad Street was closed causing long delays for rush-hour traffic.

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16 Two-tier market fear over property prices

HOUSE prices in parts of the West Midlands are lower now than at the worst point in the recession, despite a national upturn in the market.

Fears of a two-tier recovery were raised as houses in areas like Bilston were shown to have dropped eight per cent in value since 2009 while a home in affluent Solihull has shot up 16 per cent.

Areas like Wolverhampton and Walsall have seen a little change since 2009 but a sudden increase in the past year. Yet homes in Stourbridge, Dudley, Kidderminster, Willenhall and Cannock are all being sold for less now than five years ago.

According to figures from the Halifax, in Bilston an average home will change hands for £107,008, compared with £268,042 in Solihull. But despite the low growth in prices, four out of five properties on the market are out of reach of the average working family looking to buy their first home, according to housing charity Shelter.



Foam surrounds the scene at Wolverhampton Halfpenny Green Airport after the crash last week

Pilot's lucky escape after wheel collapses on landing

A PILOT had a lucky escape after his plane crashed during landing at an airport in South Staffordshire.

The Piper PA-28 Cherokee was coming into land at Wolverhampton Halfpenny Green Airport at Bobbington, near Stourbridge, on July 2 at 11am when its front wheel collapsed causing it to skid along the runway.

The plane was being flown by a male pilot and there were no passengers on board at the time of the crash.

Fire crews based at the airport were scrambled to the plane and sprayed it with foam to prevent any fire starting.

Airport officials say that the pilot

was uninjured. They were unable to reveal where the plane was flying from.

Alastair Mackinnon, the operational manager at Wolverhampton Halfpenny Green Airport, said: "At around 11am the Piper PA-8 Cherokee has come into land and as it has done so the front wheel has collapsed."

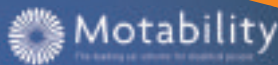
"It has skidded along the run way and come to a stop - it was a simple collision."

"One male was on board, the pilot, and there were no injuries. The fire service that is based at the airport sprayed the plane with foam but this was precautionary and to prevent any possibility of a fire starting."

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Campaign to tackle rising tide of sex abuse cases

THERE were 225 cases of child sexual exploitation in the West Midlands in a year and the disturbing trend is still growing

The figures have been revealed as a campaign is launched to save protect from abuse.

Councils and police have banded together to set up the 'See Me, Hear Me' campaign to encourage people to spot the warning signs of abuse in a child's behaviour.

A website has been launched which contains information about the 'hidden crime' of child sex exploitation (CSE). Information packs are being offered as well as guidance for people who work in hotels, leisure centres and taxi companies.

Dudley, Wolverhampton, Sandwell, Walsall, Coventry, Birmingham and Solihull councils are involved with West Midlands Police.

Hidden

There were 82 cases of CSE in Birmingham in 2013/14, 34 in Sandwell, 29 in Dudley, 29 in Walsall, 20 in Wolverhampton, 15 in Solihull and 16 in Coventry - the numbers are increasing. Since April 2014 alone there have been 65 more cases in Birmingham, 21 in Wolverhampton, nine in Dudley, four in Sandwell, three in Walsall, 15 in Coventry and five in Solihull.

The rise has been put down to the work of a specialist team identifying cases that would previously have been recorded differently.

Stephen Rimmer, West Midlands lead for tackling CSE, said: "Child sexual exploitation has been a hidden crime for far too long. The perpetrators deliberately target some of our most vul-

nerable children, whether online or in public places, and believe they will not be caught. This has to end now. "For the first time, all of the agencies with responsibility for tackling this abuse across the West Midlands are working to common standards of reporting and investigation. This must be matched by greater public awareness.

"No school or community is immune from this threat. The relentless depiction of online porn is placing ever greater pressure on pre and early teenagers.

"We must work together to protect our children from manipulative abusers of all ages and backgrounds, and fight back against accepting as 'normal' the depiction of aggressive and exploitative sexual relationships."

Warning signs can include having older friends, a child persistently going missing, secretive relationships with unknown adults, truancy, chronic fatigue, constant mobile phone calls, possession of money or new things.

The website is at www.see-me-hear-me.org.uk and anyone concerned about the safety of a young person can call police on 101 or Barnardo's on 0121 3595333.

Quantum leap to a new factory for firm

A GROWING fibreglass manufacturing firm has moved out of Stourbridge and into one of the former Sealine boat factories in Kidderminster.

The 50,000 sq foot has been empty since Sealine collapsed last year but now Quantum Mouldings is set to move in and boss Peter Wooldrige says his firm will be looking to recruit some of Sealine's skilled workers.

Growing workloads spurred the move from Quantum's home of 30 years in Enville Street, Stourbridge, and the firm is adding another 10 workers to its 25-strong workforce. Mr Wooldrige is hoping to double the company's workforce if turnover continues to grow at its current rate.

The company makes car trailers and hard tops for pick-up trucks but is also moving into new markets such as housings for wind turbines and parts for the new Agility Global electric motorbike. The recession saw the company halve in size but has built back up and is busier than ever.

£3.2m NHS winter boost for healthcare in Sandwell

£20,000 campaign starts to raise roof



Church warden Jeff Johnson is pictured outside at the church building that was hit by copper thieves

WORSHIPPERS at a parish church where thieves ripped copper from the roof of the hall forcing a lunch club to cancel meetings have launched a £20,000 fundraising campaign to cover the cost of the repairs.

Two-thirds of the roof at All Saints' Parish Church, in Darlaston, were stolen after it was targeted two nights in a row, resulting in rain leaking into the kitchen. Members have raised £7,000 towards a replacement. Now they are set to host two summer concerts that will include an appearance by local opera singer Ralph Meanley.

Birmingham Phoenix Brass Band will kick off the fundraisers at the Walsall Road premises on Saturday. Tickets cost £10. The second concert features Warley Male Voice Choir on July 19 with Mr Meanley, who has performed all over the world, as guest soloist. Tickets cost £7.50 for this event. A combined ticket for both events is available for £15 and will include light refreshments. Tickets are available on 0121 526 3017, 01922 496573 or pay on the door.

Safari park in bid to become water attraction

A WATER park complete with indoor beaches and slides, hotel and 'jungle' area is part of the £80 vision to transform West Midland Safari Park.

The project at the attraction near Kidderminster will be the biggest revamp of the site in decades and is designed to attract thousands more visitors.

Resort

The work would be carried out over the next 10 years and bosses said it would turn the attraction into a fully-fledged resort that could rival Alton Towers.

Plans are also in the pipeline to link the safari park

with the Severn Valley Railway via a new safari park stop.

The water park would have a jungle-themed environment featuring pools, rides and slides around coves and beaches.

Officials say the water park would be built on the side of Bunkers Hill and include water slides snaking in and out of the building. The site would also include a shop and a restaurant.

Full plans for the water park are set to be submitted to Wyre Forest District Council in August.

The expansion of the park is expected to create 500 jobs.

AN extra £3.2 million will be given to Sandwell and West Birmingham Clinical Commissioning Group to help cope with winter pressures.

Andy Williams, accountable officer for the group responsible for buying healthcare services for more than 525,000 people, revealed that NHS England had announced the funding.

Bosses will now draw up plans over the next couple of months on how the cash will be spent and say extra hospital staff, beds and community care packages would be considered.

At a meeting of the governing body, members were also told that the 95 per cent Government target for seeing A&E patients within four hours was not met in May by the Sandwell & West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust.

It fell short at 94.5 per cent — compared to reaching 96 per cent in April

Report by Lisa O'Brien

— with a 34 per cent consultant vacancy rate in emergency medicine and insufficient cover marked up as one of the problems.

The number of A&E patients not seen within four hours stood at 309 in the last week in May, compared to 138 in the last week of April.

Plan

Mr Williams said receiving the funding news early this year would help Sandwell and West Birmingham CCG plan ahead and make sure measures were put in place before the busy winter period.

He said: "It's an injection of cash to help us cope with urgent care pressures. We are usually not told about the funding this early on in the year but it will help us put in place a whole bunch of things. We had a similar in-

vestment programme last year. Typically what we look to try and do is a combination of things that will try and take pressure off.

"We will normally have a plan to build up capacity. It could involve extra beds and staff, helping people being discharged from hospital. Over the next couple of months we will finalise our plans and start to put things in place."

A report to the governing body said the CCG had received notification of the winter funds allocation for 2014/15 and were asked to note that the sum of £3.2m is being made available to the local health and social care economy.

Partners have already been asked to consider what measures can be taken to support the wider system during the winter months.

The winter panel will be reconvened to examine each proposal and assess impact and value for money.

Three year jail term for suicide threat kidnapper

A SUICIDAL man who dragged his former partner to a park and threatened to hang himself before her eyes has been jailed.

Paul Attwell breached bail conditions to visit his ex-girlfriend's home in Dudley. Wolverhampton Crown Court heard the 28-year-old forced entry to the flat before dragging her down 12 flights of stairs and to a park near her flat. There, he tried to hang himself, said Mr Rob Edwards, prosecuting.

Attwell, of The Broadway, Dudley, admitted one count of kidnap and was sentenced to three years and nine months in jail for what Judge John Wait described it as a 'terrifying' attack on February 17.

At around 2am the victim's buzzer rang on her

flat but she ignored it, assuming it to be Attwell. "At 2.10am he pleaded with her to let him come in but she told him to go away," said Mr Edwards. "Her concerns were such that she began to make a call to the police at 2.22am."

He forced entry to her flat and took her mobile phone, throwing it down a rubbish chute. He grabbed her hair, tearing out clumps of it. At the park father-of-five Attwell made a loop with a rope and said he was intending to commit suicide. She prevented him doing so.

Mr Stephen Hamblett, for Attwell, said his client had been affected by drink and drugs since the age of 14. He was given a five-year restraining order to keep away from the victim.

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Goodbye to year 6



COLLEY LANE Primary School

Dear year 6,
How time has flown! Endless months have come and gone; our time here is almost over. "I will miss my class members, for the daily fun and laughter" said Bo-Grace Pountney. The teachers and staff have managed to make each day a moment to remember, "We will always remember how every teacher inspired us" claimed Kiera Sadler-a motivated pupil.
Even though we are leaving Colley Lane it will always have a significant place in our hearts, for: the trips and residential, the amazing lessons, the dedication to our end of school play and so much more! Several of the pupils here are looking forward to what the future holds for them at their new high school. Jack Jackson quoted that he was looking forward to a new, fresh start in the coming months.
Time is ticking on steadily while we prepare for the transition to high school. Meanwhile, we know that our end of year preparations will become lasting memories of our Primary School.
We hope every single one of you enjoys your time at high school and remembers Colley Lane in the future-some of the most magical moments in life are those that you only experience once. Time doesn't last forever-memories do.
Finally a word from our class teacher and Year Group Co-ordinator, Mrs G.Oakley:
"Year 6, what a fantastic year we have had! We hope you leave Colley Lane with lots of happy memories and dreams for the future. We are very proud of each and every one of your achievements and wish you lots of luck for the future. Goodbye, year 6!"

By Madinah Maan and Willow Markham (year 6 pupils)



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"The residential to Plas Gwynant was amazing! I really enjoyed gorge walking up the mountain!" EC

You have all worked extremely hard, we couldn't have asked for any more. Staff, pupils and governors are very proud of you all and we wish you good luck and success in your new schools.

Remember to persevere and aim higher every day! Never say, "I can't do it." Say, "I can't do it - yet!" Mrs Fenby.

"The staff at Old Hill are so helpful and caring." KH

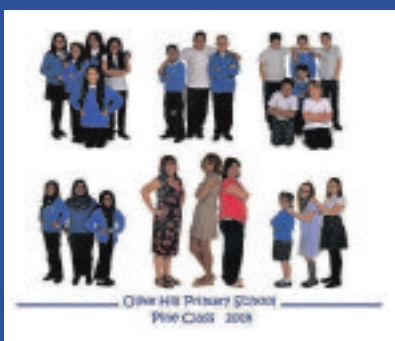
"We have made great progress throughout the year." AD

"Break times and lunch times are so much fun - there's loads to do." JG

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You have been a wonderful year 6 and we will miss you.



Thank you for being a valued part of our school community throughout your time at Olive Hill. You have been an absolute pleasure to teach and we are very proud of your achievements.

The staff, children, parents and governors wish you all the best of luck and every success in your future.



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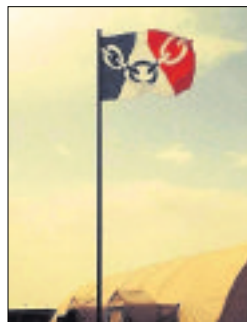
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Bostin' time ahead as region prepares

Black Country flag flies across world



The flag flying in Afghanistan

FROM Bilston to Bermuda and Tipton to Tipperary – bostin' is being uttered the world over as it, as news of Black Country Day sweeps the globe.

Proud Black Country folk have been spreading the word as preparations gather pace for the ground-breaking event celebrating all that is great in the Black Country.

More than 5,000 Black Country flags have been manufactured and sold to people keen to show off their passion for where they were born and raised. And they have been proudly waved in all corners of the world – ranging from huge sporting events, music festivals and even by soldiers in Afghanistan.

It seems the world is finally sitting up and taking notice ahead of the extrav-

aganza on Monday (July 14). From the swaying masses gathered in front at the Pyramid stage at Glastonbury the flag was hoisted high on a pole joining the throngs of music fans enjoying the acts. The flag was spotted by fans in the crowds and was clearly seen on television pictures beamed across the country to families in their armchairs.

Soldiers have been keen to remember a slice of life in the Black Country even while in the hot deserts of Afghanistan by flying the Black Country Flag over Camp Bastion.

Package

And the Black Country even got a slice of the action at the World Cup in Brazil and another was spotted during the first day of the Tour de France. One of the main organisers, 'Black Country' Gaz Sawers, has been feverishly working around the clock to post and package as many of the Black Country Flags as he can.

The flag was designed by school-girl Gracie Sheppard, 14, who attends Redhill Secondary School in Stourbridge. The Black Country Festival has been devised to bring together a host of arts and cultural events under one banner as excitement builds.

A special citizenship ceremony is also planned on Black Country Day.

Seventy adults from across Walsall, Wolverhampton, Sandwell and Dudley will become British nationals and Black Country citizens.

The event will take place at Dudley Town Hall, the first place in the region to fly the Black Country Flag.



Garry Sawers, also known as Black Country Gaz, promotes Black Country Day along with Councillor Pete Lowe in The Town Hall, Dudley



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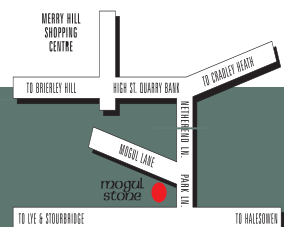
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Grand idea - Entertainer 'Duchess of Dudley' Lizzie Wiggins

Famous add their backing

DUDLEY-BORN comic Lenny Henry, Wolves star Danny Bath and even the Prime Minister, David Cameron - the celebration of all things Black Country is receiving approval from well-known famous faces.

Mr Cameron praised the plan to look at the culture, history and identity of the Black Country while on a recent visit to the region, promoting a multi-million pound investment plan by the Government.

Black Country Day will take place on

Monday (14) but events are held from Friday onwards.

Dudley-born funny man Lenny Henry has also given his personal backing to this weekend's events.

Visits

The 55-year-old has made several public visits to Dudley since he was made Freeman of the Borough last year. Sports stars from the area have also been getting in the spirit. Wolves star and Brierley Hill-born footballer

Danny Bath also gave his support.

Black Country Day has already won praise from some of the area's best loved figures for putting the pride back into the area.

Entertainer 'Duchess of Dudley' Lizzie Wiggins says Black Country Day is a 'grand idea' and Jacky Fellows - one third of the popular Black Country comic trio and theatre group Fizzog Productions - believes the event will prove a popular addition to the calendar.

Anthem in vow to head up the charts

IT'S a moving song which was re-worked by gigging musicians to stir the soul of thousands around the Black Country and the world.

And now this patriotic ode is soaring up the charts as people get behind a band to celebrate all that is bostin' about the Black Country. Folk band The Empty Can say they have been left stunned for the support for their single I Vow to Thee, Black Country.

It has been named the official song for Black Country Day on July 14 and bandmates hope the song has proved a popular anthem for the occasion. Thousands have already downloaded the song which reached number 32 in the UK official independent singles chart recently.



Rachel Slater and James Stevens, of The Empty Can band, who released I Vow to Thee Black Country

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Two days departing Sept 13 and Oct 11

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Organised by Omega Events (ABTA Y590X)

The Mary Rose at Portsmouth's Historic Dockyard

Two days departing October 3

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- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Entrance to the Portsmouth Historic Dockyard to see the Mary Rose Museum
- Harbour tour by boat
- Visits to Winchester
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Four days departing October 10

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- Three nights half-board accommodation
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London Theatre by coach

Two days selected weekend departure dates

★ **PRICE FROM £139.⁹⁵**

London is the natural home of theatre and the musical is king in the capital's world-famous West End. British musicals that prove a runaway success here often go on to triumph on Broadway and around the globe.

The winning combination of engaging writing, captivating stage design and commanding performance has enabled London theatres to achieve box office smashes time and time again. And it's the songs that make people return to the capital a number of times and some of the most well-known tunes have become part of the national canvas.

There are two options travelling by coach from which to choose, Saturday Night Theatre or Dine and Dance.

The Saturday Night Theatre break, from £139.95, includes a ticket for the evening show whereas the Dine and Dance option starts from £149.95, and includes an evening meal with an after-dinner disco. The ticket for this break is for the matinee performance.

Both trips include return coach travel, a choice of theatre ticket from an extensive list of shows, overnight bed and breakfast accommodation in an outer-London four-star hotel, along with some free time in the capital for shopping or sightseeing.

Pick-ups offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

*The from price and price bands vary for each show - see brochure/web page for details.

Single room supplements apply.

Organised by Omega Events (ABTA Y590X)

Christmas in Bournemouth

Five days departing December 23

★ **PRICE FROM £399**

Why not spend Christmas this year at one of the UK's premier seaside resorts?

This holiday to Bournemouth is full of festive fun. In the daytime there's some included excursions, maybe take a stroll along the seafront on Christmas Day before sitting down to a traditional Christmas Day lunch, and on three evenings relax and enjoy the entertainment at the hotel.

A full-day excursion on Christmas Eve travels through the beautiful New Forest National Park. There is free time in Brockenhurst, where the centre boasts a wealth

of high quality shops, plus the famous watersplash where animals stop to drink, and Lyndhurst which is full of shops, cosy tearooms, old world pubs, cafes and restaurants. There is also the New Forest Museum which gives a unique guide into the forest's history and heritage.

The Boxing Day excursion visits Poole, home to the world's second largest natural harbour, followed by Norden on the Isle of Purbeck, where there is an optional single journey on the Swanage Steam Railway. Free time in Swanage follows; a quaint town with a Victorian Pier, award winning beaches and spectacular views of the Needles and the Isle of Wight.

Excursions are also included to Salisbury and Winchester, plus some free time to relax at the hotel or explore Bournemouth.

INFO

- Return coach travel
- Four nights half-board accommodation
- Traditional Christmas Day lunch
- Visits to Salisbury, Poole, Swanage and Winchester
- Tour of the New Forest National Park
- Free time in Bournemouth
- Entertainment programme
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

**Pick
of the
week**

Aussies fresh from Monkeys business

AUSTRALIAN psychedelic rock band Tame Impala, whose second album Lonerism has become a cult classic, follow their Arctic Monkeys Finsbury Park support slot with a show in their own right at Birmingham's Institute venue, in Digbeth, on Monday.

The week's other plum gigs are at Bilston's Robin 2 with soulful singer/songwriter Jo Harman in concert tonight and acclaimed young guitarist Laurence Jones on Wednesday, July 16, with support from American retro jazzers Davina and her Vagabonds. Meanwhile, the soul sounds of Detroit's Tamlam Motown label will be celebrated in The Magic of Motown on Sunday at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre.

Black Country fun at the cone

AN all day music festival is being staged in Stourbridge this Sunday for the Black Country Day Weekend.

The Redhouse Cone, Wordsley, has lined up a bill of local musicians including John Langford and Mark Busby Burrows. The event on Sunday will be outside and runs from 11am to 5pm, the same day as a poetry festival at the venue. But fun starts tomorrow night with comedy from New Black Country Night Out featuring Aynuk and The Fizzogs and there will be a celebration of cultural diversity on Saturday. See kmsevents.co.uk

Vinyl chance for Lenny to make his acting debut at The Rep

Uplifting holiday romance

THE stage adaptation of 1987 film Dirty Dancing arrives at the Wolverhampton Grand Theatre this September, offering audiences the opportunity to revel in dance and romance in an upstate New York holiday resort circa 1963.

The roles of Baby and Johnny were immortalised on the big screen by Jennifer Grey and Patrick Swayze, whose chemistry made such an impact as the Romeo and Juliet of Kellerman's holiday resort. So much so that each generation, Dirty Dancing becomes part of the VHS/DVD/Blu-Ray collection.

The stunning salsa and mesmerising merengue and, of course, that climatic lift when Baby jumps into Johnny's arms, will be performed again at the Grand from September 23 to October 11 with Gareth Bailey and Roseanna Frasca in the lead roles.



Having the time of their life — Gareth Bailey and Roseanna Frasca as Johnny and Baby

DUDLEY-BORN comedian and actor Lenny Henry will headline Birmingham Repertory Theatre's autumn and winter 2014 season.

The comic turned acclaimed dramatic actor will star in the stage premiere of Rudy's Rare Records from September 4 to 20, his first role at the theatre. Based on his successful BBC Radio 4 series, written by Danny Robins and Henry, Rudy's Rare Records is a poignant comedy set in an old reggae record shop at risk of re-development in Birmingham.

Home

Henry plays Adam, son of shop owner Rudy, who reluctantly moves home to look after his dad and help run the shop.

Adapted for the stage by the writers, Rudy's Rare Records is directed by Paulette Randall and produced by Birmingham Repertory Theatre and Hackney Empire, where it will run after the premiere in Birmingham. The production will feature a live band onstage playing music made famous by Jimmy Cliff, Desmond Dekker and Bob Marley.

Henry said: "I've performed comedy gigs many times in Birmingham over the years, but this is my first straight acting role in the city and the first time I've been on stage at The Rep, which is something I'm really looking forward to."



Lenny Henry and his co-stars

"Growing up in Dudley I would come into Birmingham every Saturday to hang-out in a record shop not too dissimilar to Rudy's, so it's a play that's very close to my heart."

Roxana Silbert, artistic director at Birmingham Rep said: "We're delighted that Lenny will be bringing this brilliant show about three generations of a Birmingham family back home."

Tickets cost from £12.50 to £35. Call the box office on 0121 236 4455.

Funk and folk at niche festivals

FESTIVAL season is in full swing and music fans can fill the gap between Glastonbury and V with a boutique festival in Birmingham.

This weekend, from Friday to Sunday, is the Mostly Jazz Funk & Soul Festival in Moseley Park, New York's Fun Lovin' Criminals headline tomorrow, soul queen Mavis Staples tops the bill on Saturday and The Earth Wind And Fire Experience, featuring original member Al McKay, rounds things off on Sunday.

Sax

Other acts include Syrian star Omar Souleyman, Dutch dance trio Kraak & Smaak, Cody ChestnutTT, Lack of Afro, 1960s rock veteran Ginger Baker with his Jazz Confusion, and sax symbol Courtney Pine.

On Saturday BBC radio DJ, Coronation Street and Red Dwarf star Craig Charles will have a guest DJ slot.

Moseley Park will be a venue again on August 29 to 31 for the Moseley Folk Festival. This year it embraces rock acts too with a line up that ranges from Richard Thompson and The Waterboys, to ex-Smith Johnny Marr, rising star Jimi Goodwin, and Sonic Youth's Thurston Moore. Also featured are local acts Dan Whitehouse and The Old Dance School.

For more information see mostlyjazz.co.uk or for the folk fest moseleyfolk.co.uk website.

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CHOICE



Amanda Mealing

Casualty

(BBC1, 8.30pm)

The Beeb's flagship hospital drama is used to portraying people in desperate situations, but few go as far as one of tonight's patients. He's a drugs counsellor by trade who enlists the help of a former addict under his care to carry out a carjacking — all in a last-ditch attempt to get his hands on some cash. But why is he so willing to risk all in his bid for riches? The pieces start to fall together when he starts coughing up blood, and it seems that he's been keeping a dark secret from everyone, including his wife. Meanwhile, a leukaemia survivor seems to be struggling with motherhood. Could she be hurting her baby? Medical drama, starring George Rainsford, Richard Winsor, Chloe Howman and Amanda Mealing.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Paul Hollywood's Pies & Puds. (R) **12.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. **2.00** Live Athletics: Glasgow Grand Prix. Coverage of the Diamond League event. **5.20** Celebrity Mastermind. (R) **5.50** Pointless Celebrities. (R)

6.40 BBC News: Regional News; Weather.

7.00 A Question of Sport: Super Saturday. Olympic gold-medal-winning swimmer Rebecca Adlington. Strictly Come Dancing star Anton Du Beke. TV presenter Gethin Jones and BBC Breakfast's Louise Minchin take part.

7.40 The National Lottery: Break the Safe. Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which three pairs of contestants — West Midlands sisters-in-law, sign-language interpreters from Yorkshire and a Luton father and daughter — compete for the chance to play for the money in the safe, with the amount depending on how much they have earned in the previous rounds.

8.30 Casualty. A drugs counsellor enlists the help of a former addict to carry out a carjacking in his desperate bid for money — but when he ends up coughing up blood, it turns out there's something he has been keeping from his wife. Cal is negligent when dealing with the carjacking victim — something that doesn't go unnoticed by Connie — and a leukaemia survivor is suspected of hurting her baby, while Jess returns to the department with a new-found sense of direction in her life.

9.20 BBC News: Weather.

9.40 Film: Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl. (2003) A buccanier and a blacksmith commandeer a British ship and set sail in pursuit of a pirate captain who has kidnapped a colonial governor's daughter. However, their quarry and his crew are under a curse that turns them into living skeletons — and makes them impossible to kill. Swashbuckling fantasy adventure, starring Johnny Depp, Orlando Bloom and Keira Knightley; National Lottery Update.

11.50 Film: The Ruins. (2008) Horror, starring Jena Malone and Shawn Ashmore.

1.15 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.20** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.35** Film: Blood on the Moon. (1948) **8.00** MOTD Kickabout. (R) **8.30** World Cup Films. **9.45** Coast. **10.05** The Living Planet. (R) **11.00** Fred Dibnah's Industrial Age. (R) **11.30** Great British Railway Journeys. (R) **12.00** Rick Stein's Spain. (R) **1.00** Live Golf: The Women's British Open. Coverage of the third day at Royal Birkdale Golf Club. **5.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **5.45** Flog It! Trade Secrets.

6.15 Film: Catch Me If You Can. (2002) The story of Frank Abagnale Jr, who found notoriety as a teenager conning and charming his way across America. Posing as a pilot, a doctor and a lawyer, Frank was able to fund an extravagant lifestyle while outwitting the FBI at every turn.

8.30 Dad's Army. The air-raid wardens have to share the church hall with the Home Guard after their HQ is bombed, but Hodge's men are terribly disruptive and soon cause mayhem. (R)

9.00 The Men Who Made Us Spend. New series. Jacques Peretti investigates the methods used to persuade people to buy consumer goods and confronts the men and women behind bestselling products and successful sales strategies. In the first edition, he examines how product lifespans hold the key to consumerism and explores the origins of planned obsolescence, revealing how a group of electrical manufacturers organised a light-bulb cartel in the 1920s. He asks a senior executive at a home furnishings store why his firm still encourages repeated discarding and purchasing, and talks to a former senior Apple employee about how the company's new focus on fashion keeps people buying even when technological innovation slows.

10.00 Film: The Shipping News. (2001) A small community helps a widower rebuild his family life when he and his daughter go to live with his estranged aunt. Drama, starring Kevin Spacey, Julianne Moore and Judi Dench.

11.45 Golf: Scottish Open. Hazel Irvine presents highlights from the third round at Royal Aberdeen, where America's Phil Mickelson entered as the defending champion.

12.45 Film: Black Sheep. (2006) **2.10** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Dino Dan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.50** Animals. (R) **7.00** Animals. (R) **7.05** Sooty. (R) **7.20** Digimon Fusion. (R) **7.45** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **8.00** Adventure Time. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** The Hungry Sailors. (R) **10.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** ITV News: Weather. **11.30** Storage Hoarders. (R) **12.30** Dinner Date. (R) **1.30** Peter Andre's 60 Minute Makeover. (R) **2.30** The Nation's Favourite Motown Song. (R) **4.00** Tipping Point. (R) **5.00** Film: Scooby-Doo. (2002) Comedy adventure, starring Sarah Michelle Gellar.

6.35 Regional Programme: Weather.

6.45 ITV News: Weather.

7.00 You've Been Framed! Surreal comedy from the mind of Harry Hill, inspired by viewers' home videos. Aled Jones auditions for Daybreak, while Chris Moyles and family have fun with a Taser. (R)

7.30 Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. Chat show host Jonathan Ross, champion boxer Carl Froch and Samantha Womack (EastEnders' Ronnie Mitchell) take turns on the token-pushing machine for charity. Ben Shepherd presents.

8.30 FIFA World Cup Live 2014. Coverage of the third-place play-off (Kick-off 9.00pm), which is staged at the Estadio Nacional in Brasilia, Brazil. The two losing semi-finalists face each other to determine who finishes third and fourth, in a contest that will not be overshadowed by the final, despite historically being one of the higher-scoring matches of each tournament.

The corresponding fixture in 2010 was an entertaining affair, with Germany beating Uruguay 3-2 in a seasaw encounter that initially saw them go 1-0 up before the South Americans fought back to take a 2-1 lead early in the second half. Presented by Matt Smith, with commentary by Sam Matherface and Clarke Carlisle. In the event of extra-time and penalties, subsequent programmes are subject to change.

11.15 ITV News: Weather.

11.30 Film: Balls of Fury. (2007) The FBI recruits a washed-up former ping-pong champion to infiltrate an underground tournament run by a criminal mastermind. Comedy, starring Dan Fogler and Christopher Walken.

1.05 Jackpot247. **3.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.40** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.05 The Hoobs. (R) **6.30** Trans World Sport. **7.30** FIM World Superbike Championship. **7.55** The Morning Line. **9.00** Weekend Kitchen. **10.00** Frasier. (R) **10.30** Frasier. (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.55** The Simpsons. (R) **12.30** The Tomorrow People. **1.20** Channel 4 Comic Relief. Live coverage from Newmarket, York and Ascot. **4.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.40** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.40** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.15 Come Dine with Me. Jilly Pollock hosts the fifth and final party in Liverpool, and hopes her black-tie event featuring ballroom dancing will ease tensions after the previous night's arguments. (R)

6.45 Channel 4 News.

7.05 The Restoration Man. George Clarke catches up with Simon Hooper and partner Victoria, who tried to convert a Grade I-listed medieval hall into a unique home in Cardiff. (R)

8.00 Grand Designs. Kevin McCloud meets artists Indi and Rebecca, who are planning to construct a modern, larch-clad home on the Isle of Skye, with a second-hand factory building alongside to use as their studio, all on a tight budget of £150,000. They have been saving for years, but making it happen will mean taking on the savage weather, not to mention the sceptical locals — and as if that weren't enough, most of the work is being done by one man, local builder Donald. (R)

9.00 Film: Knight and Day. (2010) A woman has a chance encounter with a rogue secret agent, who has been framed as a traitor and is on the run from his own superiors. Realising she is in danger for knowing too much, he kidnaps her and drags her along on his desperate mission to clear his name. Comedy adventure, with Tom Cruise and Cameron Diaz.

11.15 The IT Crowd. Philip from the sixth floor asks Jen on a date — but Roy and Moss invite themselves along. Comedy, starring Katherine Parkinson, Chris O'Dowd and Richard Ayode. (R)

11.50 The IT Crowd. Denholm's death spells trouble for Jen and Roy — until support appears in the form of a mysterious stranger. (R)

12.25 The IT Crowd. (R) **12.55** Film: Rushmore. (1998) **2.30** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.40** Deal or No Deal. (R) **5.35** Kirstie's Vintage Gems. (R) **5.40** The Hoobs. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Access. **10.05** Meerkat Manor. (R) **10.30** The Dog Rescuers with Alan Davies. (R) **11.30** Big Brother: Eviction. (R) **12.55** NCIS. (R) **1.50** NCIS. (R) **2.45** NCIS. (R) **3.40** Film: Pork Chop Hill. (1959) Korean War drama, starring Gregory Peck. **5.40** Film: Fighter Attack. (1953) Second World War drama, starring Sterling Hayden.

7.00 Cricket on 5. England v India. Mark Nicholas presents highlights from the fourth day of the First Test of the five-match series from Trent Bridge in Nottingham. England were eventually bowled out for 544 in their second innings when the sides met here in 2011, leaving the tourists needing 478 runs to win. However, Tim Bresnan returned excellent figures of 5/48 as India were skittled out for just 158. Commentary and analysis by Geoffrey Boycott, Michael Vaughan and Simon Hughes.

7.55 5 News.

8.00 MH370: The Flight That Vanished. Documentary examining the theories and speculation surrounding the fate of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370, which was lost during its scheduled journey from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing Airport on March 8. (R)

9.00 Big Brother. Highlights of another 24 hours in the Big Brother house, including coverage of the latest eviction as seen from the point of view of the contestants, who share their diary-room thoughts on their recently departed friend — or enemy.

10.00 The Trial of Gillian Taylor. Dramatic reconstruction based on transcripts and media coverage of the 1994 court case in which the former EastEnders star and her partner sued the Sun newspaper for libel.

11.00 Benefits Britain: Life on the Dole. The documentary examining the lives of unemployed people visits Hull, which has one of the highest unemployment rates and lowest average weekly wages in the UK. (R)

12.00 Big Brother's Bit on the Psych. **1.00** SuperCasino. **3.10** SkyScanner: London's Cheesegrater. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.10** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.30** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 Top Gear **8.00** John Newman & Katy B @ T **9.00** Pharrell Williams & Rudimental @ T **10.00** Paolo Nutini @ T **11.30** Family Guy **1.45** American Dad! **2.30** Pramface **4.00** Close

BBC Four

7.00 Lost Land of the Tiger **8.00** The Story of Science — Power, Proof and Passion **9.00** Inspector Montalbano **10.55** Imagine — Jimi Hendrix: Hear My Train a Comin' **12.25** Fantasy Heroes at the BBC **1.25** Top of the Pops: 1979 **1.55** Lost Land of the Tiger **2.55** The Story of Science — Power, Proof and Passion **3.55** Close

ITV2

12.10 I Wanna Marry "Harry" **1.10** The Only Way Is Essex **2.40** Film: Beethoven (1991) **4.25** 100% You've Been Framed! **5.25** You've Been Framed and Famous! **6.30** Film: Pearl Harbor (2001) Romantic drama, starring Ben Affleck and Kate Beckinsale. **10.00** Film: The Matrix Reloaded (2003) Sci-fi thriller sequel, starring Keanu Reeves, Carrie-Anne Moss, Laurence Fishburne and Hugo Weaving. **12.40** The Magulaf Weekender **1.40** Crazy Beaches **2.30** You've Been Framed! **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

12.45 Endeavour **1.00** Bomb Girls **1.50** Movies Now **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

11.00 The Cycle Show **12.00** Tour de France Highlights **1.00** Tour de France Live. Stage eight from Tomblaine to Gerardmer La Mouselaine. **5.00** Police, Camera, Action! **5.25** Highway Patrol **6.00** Goodwood: Cars of the Future **7.00** Tour de France Highlights **8.00** Hornblower **10.00** Film: Hard to Kill (1990) **12.00** Alias Smith and Jones **1.00** Tour de France Highlights **2.00** Gareth Bale: Welsh Galactico **2.55** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **3.30** The Store **5.30** Teleshopping

E4

11.00 Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. **12.00** The Big Bang Theory **1.30** New Girl **2.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **2.30** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** The 10.10 Film: Coming to America (1988) **11.20** The Big Bang Theory **12.50** 2 Broke Girls **1.20** How Met Your Mother **2.15** Rude Tube **3.10** The Ricky Gervais Show **4.05** Glee **4.45** Desperate Housewives

Film4

11.00 The Overlanders (1946) **1.00** Rio (2011) **3.00** Zulu (1964) **5.50** Australia (2008) **9.00** Die Hard 2 (1990) **11.10** The Others (2001) **1.25** Final Destination 3 (2006) **3.20** Close

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Enjoy festive fun on a two-centre break that combines New York, the city that never sleeps, with elegant Boston, mingling old world charm with stunning shopping malls.

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CHOICE



Anna Maxwell Martin

The Night Watch (BBC2, 9pm)
Based on the acclaimed novel by Tipping the Velvet author Sarah Waters, this one-off drama opens in 1947, when the main characters, along with the rest of the country, are trying to rebuild their lives, and then works backwards through the 1940s to see just what happened to them during the war years. We are introduced to Kay (Anna Maxwell Martin), who ceaselessly roams the streets as if haunted by some tragic loss. Meanwhile, Helen (Claire Foy) and Viv (Jodie Whittaker) run a marriage bureau but their own personal lives are less than perfect – Viv seems unable to break free from her married lover, and Helen is pursuing a tumultuous relationship with a woman named Julia (Anna Wilson-Jones).

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Alan Hansen: Player and Pundit. (R) **2.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **3.15** Wanted Down Under (R) **4.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **5.00** Songs of Praise. **5.35** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **6.00** **Countryfile**. Matt Baker explores Whiteford Burrows sand dunes in Gower, south Wales, Adam Henson reveals the wonders of world-class cameraman Richard Taylor-Jones is on the lookout for fox cubs. **7.00** **Match of the Day Live**. Coverage of the final at the Estadio do Maracanã in Rio de Janeiro (Kick-off 8.00pm), where the successors to 2010 champions Spain are crowned. This 20th staging of the tournament has been largely lauded as a great success, with a glut of goals, attacking football and some of the leading players in the world bringing their club form to the international stage. While several of the leading European nations made early exits, including Italy, England and the defending champions, the South American and CONCACAF sides demonstrated their ability, leaving few clues as to which team could find the consistency required to lift the trophy. A number of shock results added to the excitement and unpredictability of the tournament, but there have been relatively few surprises in the showpiece match over the years, with the last one being France's victory over Brazil in 1998, and before that, arguably Italy's triumph against West Germany in 1982 following their slow start to that campaign. A European success remains unlikely, especially as all four stagings of the World Cup in South America have been won by sides from that continent, with the last one being Argentina on home soil in 1978. In the event of extra-time and penalties, subsequent programmes are subject to change. **10.30 BBC News**; Regional News. **10.55 Live at the Apollo**. Greg Davies hosts another session of stand-up at Hammersmith Apollo in west London. (R) **11.25 Film: Man of the Year**. (2006) Comedy, with Robin Williams and Christopher Walken. **1.15** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.20** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.20 Film**: Tender Comrade. (1943) **8.00** Monty Don's French Gardens. (R) **9.00** Gardeners' World. (R) **9.30** The Beechgrove Garden. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** Paul Hollywood's Pies & Puds. **12.00** Rick Stein's Spain (R) **1.00** Live Golf: The Women's British Open. Coverage of the fourth day at Royal Birkdale Golf Club. **5.20** Natural World: The Bat Man of Mexico. (R) **6.20** **Flog It!** People are invited to try to make money by selling their antiques at auction. (R) **7.20** **Film: Shall We Dance?** (2004) A bored workaholic lawyer becomes fixated with a beautiful dance teacher and enrolls in her class. When she flatly rejects his advances, he decides to concentrate on perfecting his footwork – but keeps the new hobby a secret, making his wife very suspicious about the amount of time he is spending away from home. Romantic comedy, starring Richard Gere. **9.00** **The Night Watch**. One-off drama adapted from the best-selling novel by Sarah Waters following the love affairs of four Londoners through three periods of the 1940s. Kay roams the streets, haunted by a traumatic personal loss, while Helen and Viv run a marriage bureau, helping people rebuild their shattered lives by finding love – but their own complicated relationships are less easy to solve. Meanwhile, Duncan's fragile existence is threatened when a face from his past reappears. Anna Maxwell Martin, Claire Foy, Jodie Whittaker and Harry Treadaway star. (R) **10.30 Mock the Week**. Josh Widdicombe, Gary Delaney and Tiffany Stevenson are among the guests joining regular panellists Hugh Dennis and Andy Parsons on the topical comedy quiz. (R) **11.00 QI XL**. Extended edition. Victoria Coren Mitchell, Sue Perkins and the Rev Richard Coles join Alan Davies as host Stephen Fry asks a range of unusual questions about knights and knaves. (R) **11.45 Golf: Scottish Open**. Hazel Irvine presents from the fourth and final round at Royal Aberdeen, where Phil Mickelson entered as the defending champion. **12.45** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **1.45** Holby City. (R) **2.45** Match of the Day: FIFA World Cup Replay. **4.30** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Dino Dan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.50** Animals. (R) **7.00** Animals. (R) **7.05** Sooty. (R) **7.20** Digimon Fusion. (R) **7.45** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **8.00** Deadtime Stories. (R) **8.25** TV News. (R) **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** May the Best Horse Win. (R) **10.20** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** TV News; Weather. **11.30** Love Your Garden. **12.25** Long Lost Family. (R) **1.30 Film**: Columbo: Strange Befellings. (1996) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk and Rod Steiger. **3.30** Midsomer Murders. (R) **5.30** Regional Programme: Weather. **5.45** ITV News; Weather. **6.00** **Catchphrase**. Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show in which three contestants guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clips, before one of them plays to win £50,000. (R) **7.00** **FIFA World Cup Live 2014**. Coverage of the final at the Estadio do Maracanã in Rio de Janeiro (Kick-off 8.00pm), where the successors to 2010 champions Spain are crowned. The Spaniards needed extra time to overcome the Netherlands in a tempestuous affair four years ago in South Africa, with Andres Iniesta striking after John Heitinga had been sent off for the losing side. However, Spain were unable to successfully defend their title this time around, losing 5-1 to the Dutch in their opening contest, before a further defeat against Chile sealed their fate just two games into their tournament. Argentina and Brazil began their campaigns among the favourites and they will know history is on their side if either have qualified for this encounter, as a team from South America has prevailed every time the continent has hosted a World Cup. In the event of extra-time and penalties, subsequent programmes are subject to change. **10.30** **ITV News**; Weather. **10.45** **The Greatest Footie Ads Ever**. Paddy McGuinness presents this one-off programme guiding viewers through 30 years of incredible, bizarre, spectacular and much-loved football commercials. (R) **11.45** **The Cube**. Phillip Schofield hosts. (R) **12.40** The Store. **2.55** Motorsport UK. **3.45** **ITV Nightscreen**. **4.15** May the Best House Win. (R) **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.05 Ironman 2014. **6.30** Ironman 2014. **6.50** Chloë Moncler Pageant of Power. **7.30** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.55** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) **1.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.50** The Simpsons. (R) **3.20** The Simpsons. (R) **3.45** Deal or No Deal. **4.50** Film: St Trinian's. (2007) Comedy, starring Rupert Everett. **6.40** **Channel 4 News**. **7.00** **Film: Titanic**. (1997) A party of explorers studying the sunken remains of the famous liner meets an elderly woman who was a passenger on the ill-fated maiden voyage. She recounts how she boarded the ship while on the brink of being forced into marriage by her family, and was stopped from killing herself by a penniless artist. She fell in love with her saviour, but the disaster on the horizon meant their time together was doomed to be short. James Cameron's Oscar-winning romantic drama, starring Kate Winslet, Leonardo DiCaprio, Billy Zane, Kathy Bates and Bill Paxton. Edited for language and nudity. **10.45 Film: The Running Man**. (1987) A convict takes part in a brutal TV game show in which he is hunted by a series of gadget-wielding killers. Sci-fi action adventure, with Arnold Schwarzenegger and Richard Dawson. **12.40** The Million Pound Drop. Davina McCall returns with the 13th series of the quiz, featuring themed editions and celebrity contestants. Tonight, Stephen and Chris from Gogglebox play for charity. (R) **1.35 Film: A Prophet**. (2009) A crook is sent to a French prison dominated by rival Corsican and Muslim gangs, where he forms his own crime syndicate. Crime drama, starring Tahar Rahim and Niels Arestrup. **4.05** Home Road Movies. (R) **4.20** River Cottage Veg Heroes. Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall cooks a stir fry at Bramble Farm in Bristol. He also prepares potato and carrot salad, as well as exotic treats made using beetroot and samphire. (R) **4.50** Beat My Build. Two sets of property developers compete to make the most profit renovating flats. The first crew transforms a unit in London, while the second treat another on the south coast. (R) **5.45** Deal or No Deal. Players try to beat the banker and guess the contents of mystery boxes, and could double their winnings with box 23 – if they are brave enough to buy it with what they have won. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Abby's Flying Fairy School. (R) **6.25** Bubble Guppies. (R) **6.35** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.50** Chloë's Closet. (R) **7.00** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pajamas. (R) **7.20** Only the Little White Van. (R) **7.25** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.40** City of Friends. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.05** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.15** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.30** Milkshake! Show Songs. (R) **8.35** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **8.40** Rupert Bear. (R) **8.55** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. (R) **10.00** Access. (R) **10.05** World's Scariest Near Misses. (R) **10.55** Big Brother. (R) **11.55** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.55** Film: See No Evil, Hear No Evil. (1989) **2.45** Film: Stand By Me. (1986) **4.20** Film: Click. (2006) **6.30** **Criminals: Caught on Camera**. Journalist Nick Wallis joins police forces around the nation to discover how CCTV and technological advances are helping to bring criminals to justice. (R) **7.00** **Cricket on 5**. England v India. Mark Nicholas presents highlights of the fifth day of the First Test of the five-match series from Trent Bridge in Nottingham. **7.55** **5 News Weekend**. **8.00** **The Boy They Call Fish**. The story of a Vietnamese teenager who has a rare condition that gives him scaly, fish-like skin, and his unlikely friendship with the Essex grandmother devoted to helping him. (R) **9.00** **Big Brother**. Daily round-up of highlights, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary room visits and bedroom chat-chat. Narrated by Marcus Bentley. **10.00** **Webcam Girls: At Your Service**. Women who work in the online adult entertainment industry. (R) **10.50** **Film: Step Brothers**. (2008) Two 40-year-old men who have never left the family home are forced to share a room when their single parents marry each other. Comedy, starring Will Ferrell. **12.45** True Crimes: The First 72 Hours. **1.15** SuperCasino. **3.10** Police Interceptors. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.10** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.30** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Don't Tell the Bride **8.00** Bastille & Sam Smith @ 7.9.00 Tine Tempah & Jake Bugg @ 7.9.00 Arctic Monkeys & Example @ T.11.30 Family Guy **12.15** American Dad! **1.00** Russell Howard's Good News **2.00** Stacey Dooley in the USA: Homes in Detroit **3.00** Slum Survivors **4.00** Close
BBC Four
1.00 Natural World **6.00** Ford's Dagenham Dream **9.00** A Century in Film: From Scotland with Love **10.15** The Sky at Night **10.45** Film: Everlasting Moments (2008) **12.30** Britain's Most Dangerous Songs: Listen to the Banned **1.30** More Dangerous Songs: And the Banned Played On **2.30** Ford's Dagenham Dream **3.30** Decisive Weapons **4.00** Close
ITV2
1.00 America's Got Talent **3.40** You've Been Framed! **4.10** Film: Beethoven's 2nd (1993) **6.00** Film: Jurassic Park II (2001) **7.45** Film: Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous (2005) **10.00** The Only Way Is Essex **10.50** Film: The Matrix Revolutions (2003) **1.20** **ITV 4** **1.45** You've Been Framed and Famous! **2.35** Life's Funniest Moments **3.00** Teleshopping
ITV3
11.25 A Touch of Frost **1.30** Wycliffe **2.45** Film: Carry On Follow That Camel (1967) **4.40** Inspector Morse **7.00** Endeavour **10.00** Wycliffe **1.55** William and Mary **2.45** ITV3 Nightscreen **3.15** Emmerdale
ITV4
12.00 Duck Dynasty **1.00** Tour de France Highlights **2.00** Tour de France Live. Stage nine from Gardiner to Mulhouse. **5.00** Storage Wars **6.00** Goodwood Festival of Speed **7.00** Tour de France Highlights **8.00** Storage Wars **9.00** Film: Doom (2005) **11.05** Film: The Wicker Man (1973) **1.00** Tour de France Highlights **2.00** Richard Bacon's Beer and Pizza Club **2.30** Police, Camera, Action! **1.25** Rules of Engagement **2.15** The Ricky Gervais Show **3.35** Hollyoaks
E4
12.30 How I Met Your Mother **6.00** The 100 **7.00** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** Film: Hairspray (2007) **10.15** The Big Bang Theory **11.20** Rude Tube **12.25** The Mindy Project **12.50** How I Met Your Mother **1.25** Rules of Engagement **2.15** The Ricky Gervais Show **3.35** Hollyoaks
Film4
11.00 The Admirable Crichton (1957) **1.00** Planet of the Apes (1968) **3.15** Avatar (2009) **6.35** Star Trek (2009) **9.00** X-Men: The Last Stand (2006) **11.05** The Final Destination (2009) **12.40** Vanilla Sky (2001) **3.25** Close

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Date	Excursion	Adult	Senior	Child	Route Code
JULY					
Sun 13th	North Wales Highlights "Scenic Special" Llangollen, Betsi-y-Coed, Llanberis Pass, Portmeadoc	£20	£18	£16	A
Tues 15th	Cotswolds "Moreton Market & Bourton" 2 SEATS FOR £22 (Every Third Tuesday of the Month)	£13	£12	n/a	D
Thu 17th	Thomas Telford Aqueduct Cruise and Llangollen Village	£26	£25	£22	D
Sat 19th	Liverpool - Nitty City Explorer Tour "Includes Hop-On Hop-Off Open-Top Bus Ticket"	£25	£23	£18	B
Sat 19th	Liverpool as you please... "Shopping & Sightseeing" ALL SEATS ONLY £13.00	£13	£13	£13	B
Sun 20th	Hampton Court Palace "Nitty Royal Tour"	£29	£27	£18	C
Wed 23rd	Bury "World Famous" Market	£17	£16	£15	B
Sat 26th	Weston-Super-Mare "Summer Express" 2 SEATS FOR £25	£15	£14	£13	B
Sun 27th	Slagness OR Fantasy Island London Theatre "Matinee Show" Lion King OR Charlie & the Chocolate Factory LION KING £55 CHARLIE AND... £55	£20	£18	£16	A
Wed 30th	London "Shopping & Sightseeing"	£15	£15	£15	B
Thu 31st	Nitty 50's Mystery Lunch Excursion (Last Thursday of the Month)	£22	£22	n/a	TBC
AUGUST					
Sat 2nd	Weston-Super-Mare "Summer Express" 2 SEATS FOR £25	£15	£14	£13	B
Sun 3rd	Monmouth & Cardiff	£18	£17	£17	B
Mon 4th	Bakewell Market & Chatsworth House	£25	£23	n/a	A
Tue 5th	National Memorial Arboretum & Lichfield 2 For Tuesday (2 SEATS FOR £22)	£14	£13	n/a	D
Wed 6th	Twycross Zoo	£22	£20	£18	E
Fri 8th	Shrewsbury Flower Show 2014	£36	£34	£18	C
Sat 9th	Weston-Super-Mare "Summer Express" 2 SEATS FOR £25	£15	£14	£13	B
Sun 10th	Blackpool for the day... Sea, Sand and Shops (Free Air Show on Sea Front)	£17	£16	£14	D
Mon 11th	Cotswold Wildlife Park & Gardens	£23	£20	£19	C
Wed 13th	Weston-Super-Mare "ADULTS ONLY" 2 SEATS FOR £25	£15	£14	n/a	B
Fri 15th	Legoland Windsor COACH ONLY PRICE ONLY £15.00	£42	£38	£40	A

Date	Excursion	Adult	Senior	Child	Route Code
NOVEMBER					
Sat 1st	Ragley Hall - Bonfire & Fireworks Event	£17	£16	£15	J
Fri 7th	Weston-Super-Mare "NOT TO BE MISSED!" "Illuminated Carnival" 2 SEATS FOR £25	£15	£14	£13	I
Sat 15th	The National Archives - Kew, London To book this trip Contact Phil Lamb on 0121 422 9131	£21	£21	n/a	-
Sun 16th	Trafford Centre, Manchester (Christmas Shopping)	£17	£16	£15	C
Thu 20th	Cheshire Oaks Designer Shopping Outlet	£17	£16	£15	B
Fri 21st	Gloucester Quays Victorian Christmas Market	£15	£14	£13	E
Sat 22nd	Chester Victorian Christmas Market	£16	£15	£14	C
Sun 23rd	Cheltenham Christmas Market	£15	£14	£13	F
Tue 25th	Great Days Music Hall "1940s Christmas Special"	£35	£33	n/a	TBC
NEW FOR 2014	3 Course Christmas Lunch & Live Entertainment at Wroxall Abbey Hotel, Warwick "A MUST SEE SHOW"				
Thu 27th	Nitty 50's Mystery Lunch Excursion (Last Thursday of the Month)	£22	£22	n/a	TBC
Sat 29th	Worcester Victorian Christmas Fayre Santa Safari & West Midlands Safari Park "ONE OF THE BEST SANTA EXPERIENCES AROUND"	£15	£15	£13	F
Sun 30th	York - St Nicholas Christmas Market	£20	£18	£15	B
DECEMBER					
Mon 1st	Bakewell Market & Chatsworth House at Christmas	£26	£25	n/a	B
Sat 6th	Lincoln Christmas Market	£18	£16	£14	C
Sat 6th	Wellesbourne Market & Stratford-Upon-Avon Christmas Shopping	£12	£11	£10	D
Sun 7th	Bath Christmas Market	£18	£16	£14	C
Sat 13th	Telford Winter Wonderland or Telford Christmas Shopping	£TBC	£TBC	£TBC	TBC
Thu 18th	Nitty 50's Mystery Christmas Lunch Excursion A MEDIUM CHRISTMAS SPECIAL	£25	£25	n/a	TBC
Sat 20th	Warner Bros Studio, London (Christmas Special) Harry Potter Studio Tour @ CHRISTMAS	£50	£50	£40	B

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Film Choices

Monday
Assumed Killer, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A news reporter trying to prove a series of recent murders were the work of a serial killer is involved in a car crash and loses her memory. She begins to suspect that her own husband may be the murderer, and tries to piece together the events of the crash that she has forgotten. Thriller, starring Barbie Castro. (2013)

Tuesday
Escape from Polygamy, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A widowed mother joins a religious cult and goes to live in their remote compound, where her teenage daughter falls in love with the son of the group's leader. When the preacher demands that the girl marry him, the two youngsters plan to escape together. Drama, starring Haley Lu Richardson, Jack Falahee and Mary McCormack. (2013)

Wednesday
North West Frontier, BBC2, 1.10pm
A British officer saves an Indian prince from an uprising and tries to escort him and the boy's nanny to safety on board a dilapidated train. However, his mission is jeopardised when it becomes clear there is a traitor on board, leading to a deadly game of cat and mouse. Action adventure, starring Lauren Bacall, Kenneth More, Herbert Lom and Wilfrid Hyde White. (1959)



American Pie, Wednesday, ITV, 10.40pm

American Pie, ITV, 10.40pm
Four teenage boys make a solemn pact to lose their virginity before the high-school prom, and though their antics cause them huge embarrassment and public humiliation, the friends also learn about love and affection in their relations with the opposite sex. Coming-of-age comedy, starring Jason Biggs, Shannon Elizabeth, Chris Klein, Alyson Hannigan, Mena Suvari, Seann William Scott and Eugene Levy. (1999)

Thursday
The Nightmare Nanny, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A woman reluctantly hires a live-in nanny to look after her three-year-old daughter so she can return to work, but fears the child is growing closer to her minder than her mother. Thriller, starring Ashley Scott and Mekenna Melvin. (2013)

Friday
What Happens in Vegas, Channel 4, 12.05am
Two strangers accidentally booked into the same hotel room in Las Vegas spend a night on the town together. After a wild and drunken time in the casinos, they wake up to find they are now a married couple, and later win \$3million which they both have a claim to – leading to a battle of wits over who keeps the money. Romantic comedy, starring Cameron Diaz and Ashton Kutcher. (2008)

Pick of the Week

The new champions are finally crowned

Who's it between? Well, not the teams featuring in the World Cup final, but rather BBC v ITV. Both channels will be broadcasting the showpiece match, which takes place at the famous Estadio do Maracana in Rio de Janeiro and kicks off at 8pm, but which company will come out on top in the ratings?

The smart money is on the Beeb. After all, they have silver fox Gary Lineker at the helm, whose still boyish good looks, despite the fact he's in his fifties, will appeal to the non-football-loving ladies in the audience, while fans will simply enjoy his knowledge of the game.

The BBC also have some excellent pundits alongside him, and we're hoping that Danny Murphy rather than Mark Lawrenson gets the co-commentator's spot.

The former Liverpool and Fulham star has been a revelation in this position – he's as interesting as poor old Phil Neville was dull during the first go at it during England's opening tie against Italy.

Not that ITV are the poor relations. Adrian Chiles does a decent job as their anchorman, while the likes of Gordon Strachan, Patrick Viera and Lee Dixon have plenty to say for themselves.

Sadly, Fabio Cannavaro often looks like a rabbit caught in the headlights – he's charming, but perhaps needs a few more English lessons.

Also, it would be nice if his co-stars allowed him to get a word in edgewise every now and then.

The World Cup itself has been one of the best in recent memory. From the start, teams generally threw caution to the wind, opting to attack rather than sit back and defend, which led to some thrilling open games.

Teams such as Chile, Costa Rica and Algeria surprised many by getting further than anyone (including probably themselves) thought possible, while the likes of Italy, holders Spain and, yes, England, fell by the wayside early.

Even the USA, a nation that for so long didn't seem to be able to get its

head around the game they call soccer, finally appeared to embrace it, and the team only bowed out during the round of 16 after one of the most enthralling matches so far, which saw goalkeeper Tim Howard make a record-breaking 15 saves before Belgium beat them 2-1.

After watching so many great matches, we have high hopes for this year's final.

It surely can't be dirtier and more disappointing than the 2010 one anyway, when Spain scored in extra time to win 1-0 against a Netherlands team that was uncharacteristically dirty throughout the game.

Referee Howard Webb sent off one player and handed out 14 bookings that afternoon in Johannesburg.

Who will actually lift the famous trophy is a mystery – there have been too many upsets and surprises so far to tempt us into guessing. What we do know is that it won't be anybody from the British Isles. Maybe our time will come in Russia in 2018, eh?



Gary Lineker, Match of the Day Live, Sunday, BBC1, 7pm

Best of the Rest

Monday
Long Lost Family, ITV, 9pm
Davina McCall and Nicky Campbell are back with a new run of a series which has proved amazingly popular. Although each episode features different people, their stories are often similar and the outcome – a tearful reunion – is the upshot of the research team's hard work. So, make sure you have plenty of tissues handy as we meet 63-year-old Ann Munro from Hampshire, who desperately wants a chance to tell her son why she gave him away when she was 21, and to ask for his forgiveness. There's also a chance to find out how Louise Kendall, a 28-year-old nurse from Bradford, gets on when she tracks down the French father she's never met.

Utopia, Channel 4, 10pm
The first series, broadcast in 2012, was a massive success, so we're expecting big things from this follow-up. It takes us back to 1979 and introduces us to Philip Carvel, a scientific genius who meets Milner, boss of powerful shadowy organisation The Network, at a secret forum involving boffins from various walks of life. They get on like a house on fire, and she encourages him to create Janus, a way of sterilising 95 per cent of the world's people which, she claims, will solve the world's overpopulation problem. But as time goes by, Carvel questions the project, particularly how it will affect his own children, in particular his beloved daughter Jessica. Tom Burke, Rose Leslie, Ed Birch, Anca Androne and Kevin Trainor star.

Tuesday
Hive Alive, BBC2, 8pm
Part one of two. Naturalist and Springwatch presenter Chris Packham and journalist and beekeeping enthusiast Martha Kearney are joined by expert Professor Adam Hart to explore the remarkable secrets of the lives and habits of bees. Midsummer is a critical time for the insects as they must gather enough food for the winter, so a specially designed hive equipped with an array of cutting-edge technology is used in order to monitor them and find out how they do it.

Coast, BBC2, 9pm
Following their recent Australian version, now the Coast team are back for a fresh run. They will be exploring more dramatic areas, telling stories, investigating notable landmarks and exploring mysteries that have played an important role in the coastal regions' development. In this first episode, the Coast crew explores the English Channel. Nick Crane experiences the secret life of Mont St Michel, a rocky outcrop which attracts over a million tourists a year. Mark Horton reveals how French mapmakers accidentally gave birth to Britain's Ordnance Survey some two centuries ago. And a few weeks after the world remembered the fallen, the team discover a poignant memorial to those who lost their lives during the D-Day campaign.



The Hotel Inspector Returns, Wednesday, Channel 5, 9pm

Wednesday
The Hotel Inspector Returns, Channel 5, 9pm
Alex Polizzi returns to the White Hart in St Albans, Hertfordshire, a reputedly haunted 15th-century hotel run by husband-and-wife Ross and Jayne McBeath, who had taken the ghoulish inspiration to extremes with novelty plastic skeletons and a horror-themed menu. Alex suggested that the proprietors drop the ghost tours and concentrate on the rich history of the building and surrounding area. Two years on, will she find a successful business – or will it be dead and buried?

The Mimic, Channel 4, 10pm
Return of the comedy about a talented impressionist who's stuck in a rut. Since leaving his maintenance job for a big break on TV, things haven't quite gone to plan for Martin and he's having trouble finding work. As his son Steven decides to go travelling – unable to cope after the death of his mother – Martin hires Neil as his new agent. However, his first gig is not exactly what he had been hoping for – busking at a shopping centre. Terry Mynott stars.

Thursday
Talk to the Animals, BBC1, 8pm
Lucy Cooke concludes her global exploration into the world of animal 'speak', focusing on how they talk to friends and enemies and even what they say to their neighbours. The zoologist discovers the many uses of the spotted hyena's call, tricks some vervet monkeys into warning each other of danger and finds out that dolphins not only greet one another, they also have unique signatures.

Friday
The Village That's Falling Into the Sea, BBC1, 7.30pm
On December 5th last year, the Norfolk seaside resort of Hemsby was devastated by the worst storm surge the east coast had seen in 60 years. It resulted in three homes being swept into the sea and another four getting unthinkable damaged. However, this wasn't the first time the village had experienced such loss – their coastline is slowly being eroded at a cost of almost 70 properties over the past few decades. In this one-off programme, presenter David Whiteley meets the residents.

BBC Proms 2014, BBC2, 8pm
The 120th season of the classical music festival gets under way at London's Royal Albert Hall as Katie Derham introduces a performance of Elgar's biblical oratorio The Kingdom, a portrayal of the acts of the disciples after the ascension of Jesus. Andrew Davis conducts the BBC Symphony Orchestra and Chorus and the BBC National Chorus of Wales.

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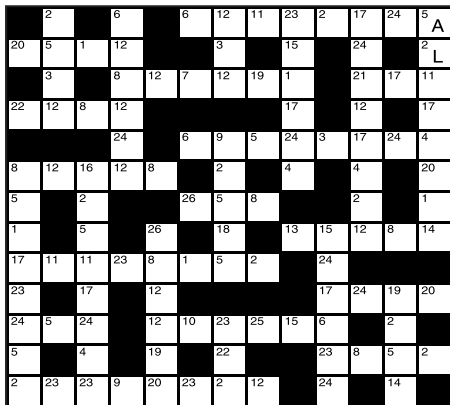
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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

C	E	I	T	V	G	D	W	P	M	K	R	O
X	Z	H	L	J	A	N	B	U	Q	F	Y	S

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

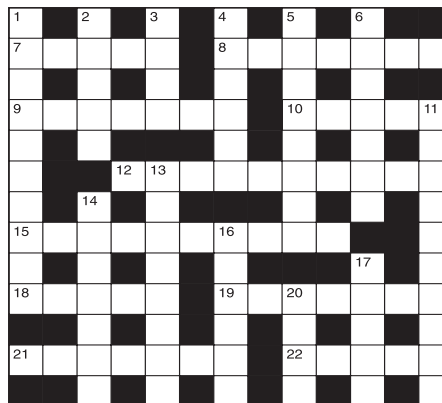
Cryptic Clues:

Across

7. Sailor not quite finished on top (5)
8. She's not herself when working (7)
9. It's lace made for use in many undergarments (7)
10. Audibly permitted (5)
12. It may be a tiny girl's reason for not singing (10)
15. Toast? Well, we enjoy it! (4,6)
18. Part of Munich expressly designed for a statue (5)
19. A topic that's new about a pudding (7)
21. We prefer to be so (7)
22. Ocean-designed craft? Hardly (5)

Down

1. One keeps dry on it (5-5)
2. Not qualified to sum up (5)
3. A number set about a religious group (4)
4. Is such a tune easily picked up? (6)
5. Yet a crooked dealer may deal himself one! (8)
6. Answers which may be dispensed with (7)
11. Specified an intention on the wrong date (10)
13. Fit as a lithe cat might be (8)
14. Firm interest (7)
16. He savagely attacked Roman civilisation (6)
17. Bandaged an injury? (5)
20. Quietly act on an agreement (4)



Quick Clues:

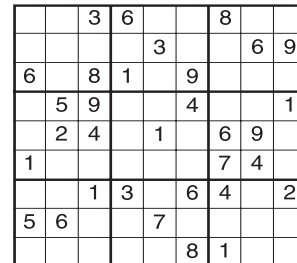
Across

7. Illustrious (5)
8. Raging (7)
9. Compel (7)
10. Remove faults (5)
12. Communicable (10)
15. Unlikely (10)
18. Decree (5)
19. Limit (7)
21. Quake (7)
22. Suffering (5)

Down

1. Not precise (10)
2. Astern (5)
3. Prophet (4)
4. Feeble (6)
5. Eastern (8)
6. Ennui (7)
11. Confused (10)
13. Mid-day (8)
14. Best (7)
16. Harmony (6)
17. Inflexible (5)
20. Remark (4)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

8	1	3	2	7	4	9	6	5
9	5	2	3	6	8	7	1	4
7	6	4	1	9	5	8	2	3
1	4	9	8	5	6	3	7	2
6	7	8	9	3	2	5	4	1
3	2	5	4	1	7	6	8	9
2	9	1	7	8	3	4	5	6
5	3	7	6	4	1	2	9	8
4	8	6	5	2	9	1	3	7

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Escalator; 8 Jan; 9 Till the soil; 11 Crushed; 12 Icing; 13 Endear; 15 Agenda; 17 Rhyme; 18 Ascribe; 20 Ice-breakers; 22 Sol; 23 Suspected. Down: 2 Ski; 3 Latch; 4 Treads; 5 Roofing; 6 Pillion ride; 7 Integrate; 10 Laundry bill; 11 Cheerless; 14 Ageless; 16 Padres; 19 Chase; 21 Rye. QUICK - Across: 1 Practical; 8 Own; 9 Depredation; 11 Breathe; 12 Upper; 13 Animal; 15 Rescue; 17 Idiot; 18 Affront; 20 Assiduously; 22 Dot; 23 Stratagem. Down: 2 Roe; 3 Treat; 4 Craven; 5 Leisure; 6 Conspicuous; 7 Interment; 10 Precipitate; 11 Beatitude; 14 Attests; 16 Wander; 19 Float; 21 Lie.

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Saturday Night from £139.⁹⁵Dine and Dance from £149.⁹⁵

Take in a top West End show and have some free time in London for shopping and sightseeing.

Rail travel is standard class with the option to upgrade. Departs Saturday morning/early afternoon from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton, returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening to give plenty of free time for shopping and sightseeing.

For the Dine and Dance option see the matinee performance before heading back to the hotel for dinner and a disco (conditions apply). Or the Saturday Night option includes a ticket for the show to see an evening performance.

Theatre Showstopper from £209.⁹⁵

This popular theatre package to the West End departs from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday morning returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening.

Both breaks include a theatre ticket, overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel, with full English breakfast (plus dinner for Dine and Dance options).

Pick ups points offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

Standard class travel is included with the option to upgrade. Two nights stay at a four-star London hotel of your choice (hotel supplements may apply) and a top priced ticket for a Friday evening performance.

*The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details. Single room supplements apply for all breaks

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Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions

Modern with character



SYCAMORE Cottage, at 78 Mushroom Green, Dudley, is a first class modern cottage with all the charm of a character property.

The three-bedroomed detached home, has been lovingly refurbished by its current owners. It is for sale through Andrew Grant at £279,950.

Situated along a private driveway, Sycamore Cottage occupies a private position in this sought after location.

Oak

The property comprises a reception hall, sitting room, kitchen with oak units, utility room, dining room, downstairs cloakroom, three bedrooms and a house bathroom with a white suite including a traditional style bath and shower attachment.

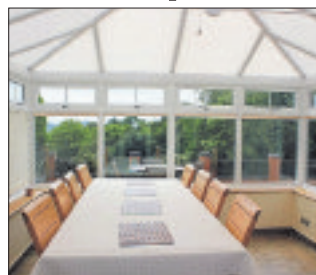
The property also benefits from gas fired central heating, double glazing, gated driveway, a garage and a landscaped rear garden.

For further information contact Andrew Grant on (01384) 370232 or visit www.andrew-grant.co.uk website.



Exceptional home backs onto a park

AN EXCEPTIONAL four-bedroomed detached family house in Welbeck Close, Halesowen, backs onto Leasowes conservation area and park. It is for sale through Scriven & Co at £385,000. It has a canopy porch entrance, reception hall, fitted cloakroom, lounge with quality conservatory off, a dining/family room, study, fitted kitchen/breakfast room, utility, 1 bedroom one with en suite shower room, three further bedrooms, bathroom, detached double garage and a good-sized rear garden. The dining room has a bay window, the study has wood laminate flooring and the spacious lounge has a feature fireplace with French doors to conservatory. Contact Scriven & Co on 0121 4224011 or visit www.scriven.co.uk



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EDWARD ROAD, OLDBURY



◆MUST BE VIEWED◆ - EXTENDED 5 bed home with DRIVEWAY to front for several vehicles. EXTENDED & REFITTED 35ft breakfast kitchen with appliances and REFITTED utility & WC. EXTENDED 20ft lounge with separate dining room. 5 GOOD SIZE bedrooms & REFITTED family bathroom. UPVC DG & gas central heating. Rear garden with SOUTHERLY aspect. EPC rating: C Ref: D1480

£249,950 Ref: D1480

ELM CROFT, OLDBURY



EXTENDED semi-detached home in CUL-DE-SAC location and having 3 DOUBLE bedrooms. EXTENDED & REFITTED breakfast kitchen, EXTENDED 18ft lounge, dining room & study. REFITTED family bathroom with white suite. SOUTH facing rear garden. UPVC DG & gas central heating. EPC rating: D Ref: D1481

£199,950 Ref: D1481

CLYDESDALE ROAD, QUINTON



MODERNISED home in SOUGHT AFTER tree lined road with NO UPWARD CHAIN. REFITTED & EXTENDED 11ft kitchen, 27ft lounge diner & d/s WC. REFITTED bathroom & 3 bedrooms. GARAGE & driveway to front. Lawn rear garden with WESTERLY aspect. UPVC DG & gas central heating. EPC rating: D Ref: D1478

£199,950 Ref: D1478

HAGLEY ROAD WEST, QUINTON



EXTENDED - WELL PROPORTIONED - semi detached family home. MASTER BEDROOM WITH ENSUITE - 3 further bedrooms, family bathroom. Lounge, Separate dining room, Kitchen. BLOCKPAVED driveway, rear garden with SUNNY ASPECT. UPVC DBG & gas central heating. EPC rating: E Ref: D1476

£199,950 Ref: D1476

MEADOW ROAD, QUINTON



SPACIOUS MODERN end terrace town house with PARKING. Kitchen with built in appliances, DWG, Lounge & conservatory/dining room with French doors to garden. MASTER BEDROOM WITH ENSUITE 3 further DOUBLE BEDROOMS, & family bathroom. Rear garden. GCH, UPVC DBG. EPC Rating: C Ref: D1453

£184,950 Ref: D1453

WILMINGTON ROAD, QUINTON



IDEAL FOR MODERNISATION AND EXTENSION. Traditional home in SOUGHT AFTER tree lined road. 26ft lounge diner, EXTENDED 13ft kitchen, d/s WC & lean to storage. 3 GOOD SIZE bedrooms & family bathroom. GARAGE & driveway. Lawn gardens to rear. NO UPWARD CHAIN. Gas central heating & part double glazing. EPC rating: Ref: D1474

£179,950 Ref: D1474

MARION ROAD, SMETHWICK



MODERNISED semi-detached home on CORNER PLOT position close to LOCAL PARK. REFITTED 12ft kitchen & 26ft lounge diner. REFITTED family bathroom and 3 bedrooms on first floor. DRIVEWAY to front. UPVC double glazing & gas central heating. EPC rating: D Ref: D1477

£164,950 Ref: D1477

PINEWOOD DRIVE, BARTLEY GREEN



EXTENDED family home on CORNER PLOT position. GARAGE & driveway - potential to extend to side. 16ft lounge diner & 11ft breakfast kitchen. Benefits from d/s WC. 3 GOOD size bedrooms & family bathroom. Gas central heating & double glazing fitted. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC rating: D Ref: D1449

£139,950 Ref: D1449

TEDSTONE ROAD, QUINTON



WELL PRESENTED end terraced home in CUL-DE-SAC location. Having LARGE rear garden with SOUTHERLY aspect. 17ft lounge, 11ft kitchen & REFITTED downstairs bathroom. 3 bedrooms & WC on first floor. DRIVEWAY to front giving off road parking for several vehicles. UPVC DG & gas central heating. EPC rating: D Ref: D1482

£124,950 Ref: D1482

BEAN CROFT, QUINTON



SPACIOUS mid terraced home in CUL-DE-SAC location. 15ft lounge & 16ft kitchen diner. Benefits from downstairs WC & CONSERVATORY with storage. 3 GOOD SIZE bedrooms & family bathroom. Lawn garden to both front & rear. Warm air heating & majority UPVC double glazing. EPC rating: D Ref: D1475

£89,950 Ref: D1475

RIDGMONT CROFT, QUINTON



SPACIOUS terraced home with NO UPWARD CHAIN. NON BRICK/NON STANDARD CONSTRUCTION. 23ft lounge diner & 9ft kitchen. 3 bedrooms & shower room on 1st floor. Gas central heating & UPVC glazing fitted. CUL-DE-SAC position. EPC rating: Ref: D1396

£75,000 Ref: D1396

NEW ENGLAND, HALESOWEN



Split level apartment in CUL-DE-SAC location with GARAGE. 154 years remaining on lease. REFITTED 13ft kitchen & 14ft lounge on 1st floor. 2 DOUBLE bedrooms & REFITTED shower room on 2nd floor. NO UPWARD CHAIN. Gardens to rear. Majority UPVC DG & gas central heating. EPC rating: C Ref: D1479

£74,950 Ref: D1479

Residential Sales & Lettings



Six-bedroom home has period features



A SUBSTANTIAL six-bedroom semi-detached property in Barnsley Road, Edgbaston, is for sale through Robert Oulsnam at £450,000.

In a conservation area and having period features including sash windows, it has an entrance hallway, ground floor WC, two reception rooms, breakfast kitchen, utility room, six bedrooms, two bathrooms, WC, kitchenette, workshop, garage, car port, front and rear gardens including rear patio, vegetable patch, garden pond and workshop. There is access to a separate plot of land along Barnsley Road. Contact Robert Oulsnam on 0121 4299986 or www.oulsnam.net



Improved family semi in Warley Woods area



IMPROVED four bedroomed semi-detached 30 Harborne Road, Warley Woods, is for sale through Taylors estate agent at £279,950.

Set back behind a driveway providing off road parking it has a porch, entrance hall with staircase off, a delightful lounge with a bay window and feature fireplace, a sitting room with sliding patio doors into the attractive garden room and a feature chimney breast with fireplace and wood effect flooring, a kitchen (which opens to garden room), with light wood units and contrasting working surfaces, an integral oven, four ring gas hob and cooker hood above, an island feature with circular sink, attractive slate effect flooring and a narrow garage/store off. Outside the rear garden has a patio, lawn, shrubs and shed.

Contact Taylors on (0121) 4344345 or visit www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk



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HALESOWEN, Blackberry Lane£700 pcm - Fees
A superb 2 bedroom detached house with separate annex to rear, fully refurbished to a high standard comprising of 2 reception rooms, fitted breakfast kitchen, guest w.c., 2 double bedrooms, shower room, gas central heating, double glazing, annex giving extra living or working space. Not to be missed. EPC: C

HALESOWEN, Sanderson Place£625 pcm - Fees
Luxury living in Hayley Green. A superb ground floor semi apartment offering spacious accommodation including open plan lounge/kitchen and diner, 2 double bedrooms, master with en-suite, further well appointed bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking. EPC: B

HALESOWEN, Bloomfield Street West£575 pcm - Fees
A stunning furnished to suit 2 double bedroom cottage style mid terraced property in close proximity to Halesowen town centre. 2 reception rooms, modern fitted kitchen/dining area with appliances, bathroom with shower, private rear garden. On road parking. Not to miss!! EPC: D

HALESOWEN, Beecher Road£550 pcm - Fees
A very well presented semi-detached house, in a sought after area for Colley Lane Primary School and bus links. Featuring a large living room, fitted kitchen, 3 bedrooms, family bathroom with shower, double glazing, gas central heating, front and rear gardens, driveway parking. EPC: D

KIDDERMINSTER, Patin House£550 pcm - Fees
A superb ground floor apartment set in a converted Victorian house offering underfloor heating, open plan lounge, fitted kitchen with appliances and granite worktops, large bathroom with shower, 1 double and 1 large single bedroom, allocated parking and well kept communal gardens. Available immediately. EPC: C

HALESOWEN, Cross Street£495 pcm - Fees
Beautifully presented and very close to Halesowen. This lovely ground floor maisonette features 1 double bedroom and a single bedroom, dining kitchen, brand new bathroom with shower, private rear garden and driveway parking for 2 cars. EPC: E

CRADLEY HEATH, King Street£475 pcm - Fees
Located in the heart of Old Hill. Ideally situated for local shops, buses and train links is this unfurnished 1st floor modern apartment which comprises of 2 bedrooms, master bedroom with en-suite, fitted kitchen, lounge, double glazing, electric storage heating, bathroom with shower, allocated parking space. EPC: C

WORDSLEY, John Street £450 pcm - Fees
Close to local buses to Kingswinford, Stourbridge and a short walk from Ambicote. This extremely large and spacious 2 double bedroom terraced house features 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, house bathroom with shower, on road parking and an enclosed rear garden. EPC: E

ROWLEY REGIS, Fairbourne Avenue£575 pcm - Fees
Perfect for a family and close to the M5. A large Mucklow Style detached house which is available now, close to local shops and bus routes. Featuring 2 double bedrooms with fitted wardrobes and 1 large single bedroom, 2 good size lounges, large kitchen, downstairs wc, shower room, gas central heating, new windows, huge rear garden, driveway and garage. EPC: D

ROWLEY REGIS, Queens Drive£595 pcm - Fees
An unfurnished or part furnished traditional 3 bedroom semi detached house in a popular location. This house features a lovely entrance hall, front lounge with a bay window, dining room, small kitchen, upstairs bathroom with shower, off road parking for 2 vehicles, rear garden, gas central heating, double glazing. EPC: D

BEARWOOD, St Marys Road£575 pcm - Fees
A 2 bedroom furnished to suit mid terraced house located in this very popular area of Bearwood. The property offers spacious accommodation with 2 reception rooms, kitchen with appliances, downstairs bathroom with shower, 2 double bedrooms. Private rear garden. On road parking. EPC: E

MERRY HILL, Columbus Avenue£550 pcm - Fees
Ideal for shopping. Centrally located on the Merry Hill Shopping Centre and transport links. This fabulous 2nd floor apartment features modern decoration and can not be missed, and features 1 double & 1 large single bedroom, dual aspect lounge/diner, fitted kitchen, house bathroom with shower, en-suite to master bedroom, large loft area, allocated parking (parking permit required). EPC: G

ROWLEY REGIS, Client View£550 pcm - Fees
A fantastic opportunity to rent a new build home on a select development. 'Client View' features homes of 2 double bedrooms with fitted wardrobes. Finished to an exceptional standard. This home features a spacious lounge with patio doors leading to a low maintenance garden, modern fitted kitchen, downstairs WC, house bathroom with shower, this property will not be around for long. EPC: B

HALESOWEN, Millbrook Court£495 pcm - Fees
Spacious refurbished 2nd floor apartment in this very convenient location. Having a large lounge with triple glazed windows, refitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, new bathroom with separate shower cubical, gas central heating, garage and parking. EPC: G

HALESOWEN, Hagley Road£450 pcm - Fees
An immaculately presented ground floor 1 bedroom flat, within walking distance to Halesowen Town Centre. Featuring an open plan living room/modern fitted kitchen with integrated fridge/freezer and washing machine, bathroom with shower over bath, allocated parking space, unfurnished. EPC: C

KIDDERMINSTER, Bewdley Road£425 pcm - Fees
A fully refurbished 1st floor flat comprising of: lounge, fitted kitchen with oven/hob, stairs leading to a 1 double bedroom, white bathroom suite with shower, gas central heating, double glazing. EPC: TBC

CRADLEY HEATH, Halesowen Road£400 pcm - Fees
This value for money unfurnished terraced house, close to Old Hill Town Centre and Old Hill Train Station. Featuring 2 bedrooms with fitted wardrobes, gas central heating, 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen with appliances, downstairs bathroom with shower, on road parking. NO REAR GARDEN. EPC: D

29 Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, July 10, 2014

Drivetime

Dealership signs up Suzuki

Commercial feature

As a family run company founded by Derrick Grieveson 50 years ago, Halesowen Motor House has represented Vauxhall in Halesowen for many years.

Over the past 50 years trading the business has expanded enormously and the parent company's operations now extend to seven sites situated throughout the Midlands with the founder's son, Stuart Grieveson, in overall charge of the company today.

Now, in a new development for the dealership, Halesowen Motor House has been awarded the Suzuki franchise, one of the fastest-growing in the UK with sales registering an astonishingly high 11,000 cars last March alone.

General sales manager, Helen Madani says: "We're all very excited at the arrival of Suzuki to our dealership.

"During the first month of our Suzuki franchise we sold a magnificent 10 cars.

"The brand and its excellent products will compliment the new Vauxhalls and huge mix of competitively-priced used cars that we have offered our customers over the years."

Suzuki's cars are exactly right for today's motoring conditions. They're very economical, clean when it comes to CO2 emissions, inexpensive to own and very affordable to purchase. What's more, Suzuki's cars are stylish, practical and great to drive, too. Little wonder that there is so much demand for its vehicles!

Helen continues: "The Suzuki brand offers outstanding value and a terrific range of models.

"There hasn't been a Suzuki dealership within our area for quite a while and so we're really excited to be bringing back a brand that's quickly developing – it was the fastest growing car brand in the UK, growing by an incredible 33 per cent in 2013 to enjoy a record market share.

"With the recent arrival of the SX4 S-Cross the range is now even more extensive and refined, and besides great affordability, the range now has real design appeal."

Consumption

The excellent Alto city car, which starts at only £5,995, offers exceptionally-low combined fuel consumption of 64.2mpg. Its low emissions ensure that it's exempt from road tax.

Latest Suzuki models include the impressive SX4 S-Cross crossover and the mid range Suzuki Swift.

While, of course, Vauxhall dealer facilities continue, Halesowen Motor House now offers full dealer facilities for Suzuki including new and used sales, Motability, for which there are always NIL Advanced Payment deals on certain models, manufacturer parts and aftersales care.

Helen continues: "Throughout July anyone taking a test drive in a new Suzuki will receive a £10 M&S voucher.

"We are the only main dealer within the Birmingham area to represent Suzuki and we fully recognise the great opportunity that our franchise brings.

"We're looking forward to seeing cus-



"With the recent arrival of the SX4 S-Cross the range is now even more extensive and refined"

tomers past and present as they discover what Halesowen Motor House and Suzuki offers them."


"Halesowen Motor House is a friendly, family-run business offering a warm welcome and outstanding customer care" Helen concludes.

"This has been the bedrock of our success and we are keen to bring our own special brand of customer service to our new Suzuki franchise."

Why not check out the Suzuki range at Halesowen Motor House, Dudley Road, Halesowen B63 3NH?

Remember that anyone taking a test drive* in a new Suzuki will be given a £10 voucher to spend at M&S! Call (0121) 503 0001. You can also visit the website www.halesowenmotorhouse.co.uk for further information.

*Test drives are subject to terms and conditions.



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Models shown: Alto 1.0 SZ4 available at £7,999 on the road, includes customer saving of £1,600 (metallic paint available at £399). Splash 1.2 SZ4 available at £9,999 on the road, includes customer saving of £1,980 (metallic paint available at £415). Swift 1.2 SZ4 5dr available at £11,415 on the road, includes customer saving of £2,284 (metallic paint available at £430). Alto, Splash and Swift range official fuel consumption figures in mpg (L/100km): Urban from 40.9 (6.9) to 55.4 (5.1), extra urban from 56.5 (5.0) to 78.5 (3.6), combined from 49.6 (5.7) to 67.3 (4.2). Official CO₂ emissions from 131 g/km to 109 g/km.

The above fuel consumption figures are based on an EU test for comparative purposes only and may not reflect real driving results. *VAT free offer on Alto, Splash and Swift range: Alto 1.0 SZ available from £5,999, including customer saving of £1,200 to Alto 1.0 SZ4 A/T available at £8,625 including customer saving of £1,724 equivalent to VAT amount of previous on the road price of £7,199 (SZ) and £10,349 (SZ4 A/T). Splash 1.0 SZ2 available at £7,999, including customer saving of £1,600 to Splash 1.2 SZ4 A/T available at £10,645 including a customer saving of £2,129 equivalent to VAT amount of previous on the road price of £9,599 (SZ2) and £12,774 (SZ4 A/T). Swift 1.2 SZ2 3dr available at £8,999, including a customer saving of £1,800 to Swift 1.2 SZ4 5dr 4x4 available at £13,699 including customer saving of £2,740 equivalent to VAT amount of previous on the road price of £10,799 (SZ2 3dr) and £16,439 (SZ4 5dr 4x4). VAT free offer excludes Swift Sport. VAT equivalent reduction is not available on vehicle options or accessories. For full details contact your local participating Suzuki Dealer. Offer subject to availability for vehicles privately registered between 1st July 2014 to 30th September 2014 from participating Authorised Suzuki Dealers only. Offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers. All prices and specifications correct at time of going to print.





Venture is capital idea to put a smile on your face

By John Griffiths

A high-end MX-5 special edition, the Sport Venture stands out with its light gunmetal 17in alloy wheels; black, heated leather seats and satnav, a model which keeps a tried-and-tested formula fresh. It is available with both 1.8 and 2.0-litre engines with the metal-folding-roof Roadster-Coupe body style.

Sales of this variant have dropped off in recent times as the market for small cabrios has swelled with new arrivals, but Mazda is fighting back with keen value for money, sticking to a design philosophy that's even more relevant now than when the MX-5 was first launched in the UK, 20 years ago.

Indeed, the brand's use of lightweight construction and fuel-efficient engines has been copied by many rivals looking to share its success.

The Sport Venture special edition is offered with a choice of 126PS 1.8-litre power or a 160PS 2.0-litre unit in Roadster Coupe guise. Just the smaller engine is used in the soft top variant.

Neither powerplant makes the car the last word in searing pace but you can get to 62mph in 9.9 seconds with the 1.8 and 7.9 seconds with the 2.0-litre. Straight line speed was never what the MX-5 was about, instead majoring on tactility, usability, comparatively modest grip levels and a chassis that's helped generations of drivers get to grips with rear-wheel drive dynamics.

Both engines are plenty fast enough to extract some enjoyment from the MX-5's sweet chassis.

The metal folding roof retracts in three sections with no impact on boot space. Although it's tempting to think of this car as 'just a roof', a lot of thought has clearly gone into it. The spring and damper settings are subtly revised to take account of the hard top car's marginally altered weight distribution. Thankfully, the roof retracts to a position within the wheelbase of the car so that it doesn't detract too much from handling agility.

Subtle

Park the Roadster Coupe and the MX-5 soft top next to each other and it's possible to see the subtle way in which Mazda has teased out the shape to accommodate the folding roof. The rear deck of the car sits 40mm higher at the rear window line and 20mm higher at the trailing edge of the boot, giving it a slightly more hunched and powerful look than the soft top. It's really a very minor change and tough to discern in isolation.

Whereas the average duration for a roof operation of this kind tends to be around 22 seconds, Mazda has whittled that time back to a mere 12 seconds for the MX-5 Roadster Coupe. The driver must unlatch a centre lock and then press a button to operate the roof but it can easily be done while waiting at lights. Boot capacity is a surprisingly usable 150-litres whether the roof is up or down.

With the 1.8-litre Roadster Coupe version of this special edition offered at around £21,000, you're looking at a premium of around £1,800 over the standard range model. There's also a 160PS 2.0-litre petrol option. The soft-top MX-5 Sport Venture costs around £19,000, around £500 more than the standard SE model.

The exterior features paint finishes that are unique to this model plus bright silver door trims and unique exterior badging to create a highly distinctive appearance.

Other standard kit runs to stainless steel scuff plates, body-coloured door handles, side, driver and passenger airbags, a CD radio with six speakers, electric windows, electric adjustable mirrors with heating function and climate control air-conditioning.

For optimum handling stability, all MX-5 models also feature dynamic stability control and traction control system.

The car's handling remains as much fun as ever, it offers decent value for money and will paint a huge smile on your face.

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Hundreds of old Fords will once again converge at the Heritage Motor Centre when it hosts the sixth Old Ford Rally with the Ford Y&C Club.

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Old Fords and all derivatives including commercials, tractors and vehicles

with a Ford engine, built up to 1990, will be on display exhibiting the tremendous range of vehicles produced by one of the world's biggest manufacturers.

This year the show will not incorporate the Transit Van Clubs annual Rally, which will now take place from August 8 to 10 alongside the new Classic Van and Pick Up Show.

On display will be a wide range of vehicles from the Model T to cars of the pre-war austerity years, plus agricultural vehicles, Thames and Ford

commercial and military vehicles and the more luxurious post-war Zephyrs, Zodiacs and Granadas, along with the Mk1 and Mk2 family Cortina's and Ford Anglia's and Escorts.

Tickets for the rally cost £12 on the day for adults, £8 for children and £34 for a family. Discounted tickets are available in advance online. Visit www.heritage-motor-centre.co.uk for event details and ticket prices or call 01926 645031. Gift Aid season tickets and Tesco vouchers are also valid on this day.

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4 Pets & Animals

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2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

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BORDER COLLIE Pups, Red/white, black/white, in colour, great temperament, very pretty. Dogs/bitches, £100. 07747 496737.

CAVALIER KING CHARLES Puppies, also Cavalpo Puppies Juniors. £300/£750. 07867 530504. Bridgnorth.

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Absolutely genuine callers only to give this boy the home he deserves.
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JACK RUSSELL X POODLES 8 weeks old, wormed to date. £140. 07975 626073.

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8 weeks old. 1, long haired white, grey and black, 1 long haired all black, 1 white, tan and black, 2 tortoiseshell, litter trained, wormed.
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07765 103474

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WESTIE PUPPIES, very cute, excellent temperament, parents can be seen, ready now. 07949 652806.

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6 Property

accommodation to let

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

COSELEY comfortable 1 bed, 1st floor, s/c, unfurnished flat, ideal 30+, £330 pcm. 01902 758934.

DUDLEY & TIVDALE 1-bed refurb flats, great locations. £375pcm DSS ok with dep. 07957 140824.

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MoT, 144,000 miles, racing green,
taxed, good condition, £2,000 ono.
07866 926448.

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PEUGEOT 206 SPORTIAM
blue metallic, 2011.
61 plate, 12 months tax.
29,710 miles from new.
Bereavement forces reluctant
sale.
£7,995.
01384 571170.

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PEUGEOT 207 1.4 petrol, 5 door
hatchback, black, 27,000 miles, full
MoT, excellent condition, £1,995.
07932 963381.

PEUGEOT 307 diesel, HDI, 2004,
73K, 5dr, silver, MoT, tax, SH, 2
owners, good condition, £1,550.
07838 897643.

PEUGEOT 407 SW SE AUTO
05 Reg., only 59,000 miles on
clock, immaculate inside and
out, fsh, tax and MoT, new
brakes and belt.
£1,750. o.n.o.
07734 806068.

SEAT Ibiza Sports Rider, 08 plate,
full MoT, low mileage, genuine
reason for sale, £2,750 o.n.o.
07539 834064.

SELLING? STILL NOT SOLD? We
will buy and collect within 24 hours.
Crown Motors 079035 49849 T.
TOYOTA MR2 Sports, 2002, tax Oct,
new MoT, silver, red interior, alloys,
used daily with hood down, £1,695.
01384 873411 or 07711 688220

VAUXHALL ASTRA automatic, 03,
1.6 club, 75k miles, silver, new MoT
and taxed till end Feb '15, excellent
condition, £1,650. 07577 245359.

EXCELLENT
CONDITION

VAUXHALL VECTRA
2005, 70,000 miles, silver, abs,
electric windows, air bag, air
con, fsh, alarm, long MoT,
diesel, tax.
£2,750 ono.
07748 836325.

VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.816V
2006, 75k miles, black, electric
windows, air bag, fsh, long
MoT, central locking, one
owner, pas, tax, Alloys,
£3,450 ono.
07722 554280

VOLKSWAGEN GOLF 1.6
TDI (105) S, 5dr, 10 reg, 74000
miles, metallic grey, fsh, ac,
alloys, electric windows, MOT,
tax (only £30 pa)
Excellent condition
£7,700
01584 823455

VW SE GOLF
2003, 90,000 miles, silver,
electric windows, air bag, air
con, alarm, long MoT, auto,
central locking, one owner,
pas, diesel, tax.
£2,750 ono.
01384 872648.

cars under £1500

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that the Business Advertisement
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differentiate between Private
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BMW 318i SE Petrol, Sept 03, gold,
leather seats, alloys, FSH, 8 months
tax, 3 months MoT £1,100 ono.
01902 712525.



CHRYSLER NEON

2001, 89,000 miles, blue,
leather interior, auto, a few
scratches and small dent on
bonnet, tax until end of July
and MoT to January 20, 2015.
£395 ono.
07930 877666.

FORD FIESTA Finesse, 1.3 petrol,
Zetec, red, 5-dr, Cat D, 89k, full
MoT, 6 months tax, good condition,
£1,195 ono. 01746 862982.

FORD FOCUS LX 1600cc petrol,
2002 reg, 5 door, alloys, MoT June
2015, tax end Nov, 111,500 miles.
£725. ono. 07946 307086.

FORD FUSION 2.03 plate, 1400 cc,
recent cam belt, gold metallic
colour, MoT 04/15, tax 09/14, any
trial, £1,200 ono. 01384 864058.

FORD KA 1.3 Collection, 52 reg,
silver, 1 lady owner, low mileage,
FSH, £1,350. 07961 589264.
FORD KA 1300 Silver colour coded,
73K, clean car, 2002, MoT March,
tax September, £750 ono. 01902
408585 / 07593 552404.
FORD KA 52 Reg., black, MoT, tax,
new exhaust/tyres and brakes,
65,000 miles, good condition, £795.
07813 932880. 01902 788829.

FORD MONDEO, 2004, 104k miles,
blue, electric windows, air con,
MoT, cruise control, pas, stereo,
CD, £650. 01384 351206.

FORD MONDEO GHIA X
AUTO
2.0TDCi, 2002/52 reg, tax
October, MoT May, low
mileage, service history, cruise
control, air con, leather etc,
£1,295.
01902 338845.

FORD MONDEO ZETEC 5dr, 2.0
diesel, 05, silver, FSH, good
runner, no tax / MoT £800 ono.
01902 712525

MAZDA EUNOS ROADSTER
1994, 1.8 auto, 76,000 miles,
new brake disc and pads, plus
suspension coil springs,
paintwork, needs slight
attention.
£800 ono.
07923 108773.

MERCEDES C180 Esprit, 2000
Reg., 81k miles, MoT Feb 2015, tax,
PAS, 51,200 miles, 41k, excellent
condition, £1,562 639227.

NISSAN MICRA 1 litre, 2001 reg,
7months MoT, 2 months tax, 64k,
dark green, good condition, £575.
07939 511813.

PEUGEOT 106 51 reg, very good
condition, 6 months tax and MoT,
British racing green, £775 ono.
07528 272709.

PEUGEOT 206 1.4LX black, EV,
PAS, 51,200 miles, Y reg, MoT
£500. 07855 801779/01562 850951

PEUGEOT 206 1600 Quicksilver,
tax/MoT, excellent inside and out,
£550 no offers. 01902 335151.

RENAULT MEGANE 1.9DCI, diesel,
2003, 4-dr, long MoT and tax,
metallic, alloys, economical, etc,
£550. 07519 630474.

RENAULT SCENIC Expression,
2005, 1.6cc, 16v, FSH, lady owner
from new, fully loaded, MoT,
handbook, 2 keys, 41k, excellent
cond, £1,500 ono. 01384 250253.

ROVER 75 2001, 1800, 43,500
miles, cream leather interior, full
year MoT, one owner £900. 01902
850367.

ROVER 75 2001 reg, MoT end of
March, tax end of October this year,
£750. 01384 350922 or 07428
064828.

SELLING? STILL NOT SOLD? We
will buy and collect within 24 hours.
Crown Motors 079035 49849 T.

SKODA FABIA Classic Estate
green, 65,000 miles, Y reg, MoT
Sept 14, tax April 15, £1,500 ono.
07462 904941.

TOYOTA COROLLA 2001, 5dr,
hatchback, silver, very good condition,
taxed, MoT. £850. 01902
862471.

VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4LS, 2000,
126,000 miles, no MoT or tax,
spares or repair, £300 o.n.o.
07866 645979.

VAUXHALL CORSA 53 reg, black,
full MoT, 16inch alloys, pas, e/w,
a/c, 5 door, 1.4, £1,175 ono.
07754 557861.

VAUXHALL CORSA
CLUB 1.2
Petrol, 02, blue, 3 door, colour
coded, abs, electric windows,
s/h, tax, stereo, serviced and
MoT'd, superb condition.
£850 ono.
07900 806456.

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0121 559 1118.

HONDA 90CC Stepphrough, £550.
Also 2 Puch, 50cc. Offers.
07781 864130.

HONDA CB600 T reg, tax, MoT,
recent service, low mileage, very
good condition, mature owner,
£1,700 ono. 07943 120763.

HONDA CX 500C 1981, US import,
30,000 miles, very good condition,
£1,700 ono. Please call 01562
741440. 07580 37627.

KAWASAKI ER500 Y reg, 12
months MoT, only done 18,000
miles, gold, must be seen,
£995. 07527 727224.

SINNIS MATRIX 125 SCOOTER,
2008, only 2,500 miles, £300 to
include cover, etc. Disability forces
sale. 07766 545325.

SUZUKI ADDRESS 125CC Step
through, 2009, very good condition,
very economical, 6,500 miles, black
and silver, large topbox. £800 ono.
01562 863467 Kidderminster.

SUZUKI GSX 750F
1991, 36k miles, taxed, MoT,
top box, Spada XXL jacket
included,
£1350.

Would prefer swap for Naked
upright bike.
07754 121452.

TRIUMPH BONNEVILLE SE 865 cc,
2011, phantom black, taxed, 2,173
dry miles, £4,750 ono. Please call
01384 877423.

TRIUMPH SPRINT RS, 955 cc, t & t,
new tyres, 2000, service history,
handbook, 2 keys, 41k, excellent
cond, £1,500 ono. 01384 250253.

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or Honda Silverwing for private
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Oldbury Area.

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07831 245313

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regard only to claims and interests of
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Wolverhampton WV1 1ES

Or by e-mail to:
personnel@expressandstar.co.uk

public & legal notices

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Speed Humps/Tables Consultation

The council proposes to construct a speed table to reduce the speed of vehicles on Barrs Road, Cradley Heath. Length (m): 32; width (m): 6.6; height (mm): 65. Full details may be examined at Area Director Street Scene, Sandwell Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, B69 3DE during normal office hours and at www.sandwell.gov.uk

Objections in writing by 31/07/14, to Mr Irfan Choudry, Highways, Sandwell Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, B69 3DE, email: highways@sandwell.gov.uk

10 Personals

personal



GENTLEMAN 60

Single, slim build, very GSOH, caring nature, honest, down to earth attitude, likes meals out, quiet pubs, nights in and out, walks, conversation, WLTM, a similar slim lady in her 50's also looking for a long term relationship.

Genuine replies only.
Box Number P19328,
Express and Star,
Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.



WIDOW, 70's

Seeks Gentleman of similar age to share Friendship and social activities.

Box Number P19324,
Express and Star,
Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.



GENTLEMAN, LATE 50'S

Seeking a lady between 40-55 for a long term relationship. I'm a very kind and trustworthy person, I live on my own and am self employed, I'm very outgoing, I enjoy walking, going out for meals and going on holiday. It would be nice to have someone to share these things with.

Genuine replies only please. If possible a recent photo would be appreciated.

Write Box No. P19311 (SS),
Shropshire Newspapers Ltd,
Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

GIRL 18

Is seeking similar age girls for Friendship and Nights Out in Dudley and surrounding areas.

Box Number P19321,
Express and Star,
Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

STOURBRIDGE AREA WARM BLOODED MID 70's GENT

Young in body and spirit. WLTM warm blooded lady, 65 years plus, in need of an active partner.

Shared warm TLC, own home, have everything except a loving partner.

Love countryside, eating out, evenings relaxing, feel up with all home comforts, 2/3 day breaks.

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Box Number P19322,
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WIDOWER

Own house and car, loves music and dancing, wishes to meet a lady for friendship, possible relationship.

All areas.

'I have got a lot of love to give to the right person'.
Box Number P19301,
Express and Star,
Queen Street,
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sports clubs



KEWFORD EAGLES WEST UNDER 10S

School Year 5 from September

Players required for the new season.

Please contact Paul on 07860 783209.



BREWOOD JUNIOR EAGLES

Players wanted to strengthen successful team, particularly centre half and centre midfield, for next season under 13, on Sunday mornings, training Tuesdays by FA level 2 coach.

Contact Mike 07773 951607.

general

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.



CLASS OF 1957 - 58 FOUR MODERN

Bushbury Hill Secondary Modern School, Wolverhampton. Ex Pupils, Allen, Austin, Blower, Brockhurst, Crowe and Godson.

To meet at King Charles Public House, on Saturday, July 26, 2014, at 8.30pm.

01922 415881.



HARLEQUIN PANTOMIMES

Leading Amateur Pantomime Company Requires Senior Dancers for their production of Aladdin at Perton Civic Centre. January 20-25, 2015.

Open Auditions will be held at St Paul's Church, Penderford, WV9 5LS at 7pm on Tuesday, July 8.

Contact lisa_a_farmer@hotmail.com

PRIVATE CARER

Do you or any member of your Family need a private Carer. I have 15 years experience with Dementia, Palliative Care and help in general.

Please call Suzanne on 07854 682452.



TRYING TO TRACE G. LANSDELL Formerly of Park Road, Dudley.

Regarding his Brother C. Lansdell. Would you please contact Ian Bradford on 01233 733414. URGENTLY



WANTED MALE DANCE PARTNER

Ballroom/Latin/Sequena. For weekly classes and social dances.

Basic competency would be an advantage, for mature married lady, height 5ft3, NS, GSOH, own transport for details contact

Box Number P19323,
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WOLVERHAMPTON OLYMPIC FC

Need Players for the season 2014/15.

Academy Reception and year 1 plus coaches. Call 07814 102724.

Under 7's year 2 Plus a manager. Call 07814 102724.

Under 8's year 3 Call Dave, 07967 643310.

Under 9's year 4 Goalkeeper and outfield. Call Richard 07949 249832.

Under 11 Eagles, year 6 Call Graham, 07968 585713.



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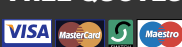
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Pressure is really on now – Whiley

HALESOWEN tennis sensation Jordanne Whiley says there is more pressure on her to complete the Grand Slam than there was to win at Wimbledon.

The 22-year-old won the Wimbledon ladies wheelchair doubles 2-6, 6-2, 7-5 against Dutch pairing Jiske Griffioen and Aniek van Koot.

That victory has seen her become a media darling with her face splashed across the nation's TV screens as everyone wants a piece of a British Wimbledon champion.

But the Black Country-bred champ admits the stakes will be even higher in September in New York when she bids to complete the full set after winning at Wimbledon, the French Open and the Australian Open.

"There's going to be a lot of pressure on me at the US Open – more pressure than Wimbledon actually because this is going to complete my Grand Slam," said Whiley.

"I've just got to put that to one side and think about the performance on the court and do it and hopefully myself and Yui (Kamiji) can do it."

She added: "I really appreciate the messages from everyone."

Swimmers face tough opposition

Nuneaton Junior League Round 3

JUNIOR swimmers from Halesowen made the trip to Leamington Spa for the final round of the first division.

The draw meant the team faced strong opposition with all but one of the other teams placed higher in the League after the first two rounds.

All the swimmers put in battling performances but were unable to gain ground on the other teams and finished the gala in fifth spot on the night.

The result sees Halesowen junior swimmers secure their first division status into 2015. Star of the show was Kate Morrice with double individual wins.

Starke warning from Heathens' captain

CRADLEY skipper Paul Starke insists the hard work is about to start for his side, writes Nigel Pearson.

Heathens currently top the National League table after a hard fought win at Buxton on Sunday – but Starke says they've had an easy run of fixtures to date.

Cradley go to Kent on Monday without three key riders due to fixtures clashes – and the next home meeting is against the in-form Coventry Storm on Tuesday, July 22 at Monmore.

They will also be without Steve Worrall, one of the top riders in British racing right

Speedway

now, for the visit of arch rivals Mildenhall on August 12 as he is racing for Premier League Edinburgh.

Starke said: "With all due respect to the guys at Buxton and Scunthorpe, they are the weaker teams in the league and the hard work starts now for us."

Meanwhile the countdown is on to the showpiece FAST Golden Hammer at Monmore on Tuesday, July 29.

The event, which promotes Dudley

Stroke Association and their Face, Arm, Speech, Time (FAST) message to recognise symptoms of stroke, is set to pull in a bumper crowd.

Reigning champion Lewis Blackbird, a hero of last season's Heathens title winning team, will return to defend his crown along with former champions Kyle Newman and Simon Lambert.

And Ashley Birks, who has hit out at British Speedway chiefs for not giving him a chance at Elite League level, has also been handed a place in the field.

Heathens stars Steve Worrall, Tom

Perry, Max Clegg, Matt Williamson, Nathan Greaves and Danny Phillips are also in the field with Worrall in particular one of the favourites.

The event features 16 riders over 20 heats with normal admission prices - £11 adults, £8 concessions and £2 children with a special souvenir programme for £3.

Just 48-hours before that, Heathens legend Billy Hamill will appear at Brierley Hill's Copthorne Hotel for 'An evening with Billy Hamill and Friends' – tickets are £10 from the Cradley shop or online cradleyheathens.co and co to the website shop.

Mystery over timing of Faulkner leaving

MIDLANDS club in turmoil Aston Villa announced this week that chief executive Paul Faulkner had left the club.

Quite why is unclear. Within a statement of business jargon came the reason: "Having discussed his re-engaging with the chairman's broader business while remaining involved with Villa in a non-operational role, agreement could not be reached," writes *Nick Mashiter*.

We live in multi-cultural society and sometimes it would be nice to see things in plain English, but then many of us have learned the word Shunammite from Randy Lerner this year. Every cloud.

Many would have expected Faulkner to stay on, at least until a takeover was imminent, so the timing of his departure is a surprise.

It is not linked to a buy-out which leaves the situation open to future debate. It only adds to the fear the club continues to tread water, struggling to shake the limbo which has engulfed them.

Three years of relegation battles have seen Faulkner become a scapegoat for the Lerner regime. No-one had any issues when Villa were reaching cup finals and challenging for Europe but as the troubles grew so did the spotlight.

He is a decent and honest man who was always well-intentioned and his exit only serves to add to the uncertainty, not ease it.

Robin Russell, chief financial officer, has stepped in to try to achieve continuity and the day-to-day running of the club is unlikely to be affected. Villa insist it

Football

is business as usual – presumably because they have got used to a certain level of upheaval.

Assistant manager Ian Culverhouse and head of football operations Gary Karsa left in May, sacked for alleged bullying. There is little room for manoeuvre for manager Paul Lambert in the transfer market, as he again relies on free transfers and bargain buys.

And now an ally in Faulkner has left there must be a degree of sympathy for Lambert because he did not sign up for this.

He has had his back to the wall for the most of his reign and while he has not covered himself in glory – in both results and his often prickly demeanour – he is constantly fighting fires.

Now he has to prepare a squad amid the backdrop of uncertainty off the pitch.

The bright new dawn which many hoped to be around the corner is still yet to rise with Lerner struggling to find the quick sale he desired.

Many wanted Faulkner to leave with Lerner and they have got half of their wish. The other half take longer.

The kits are all white as away strip unveiled



Wolves players show off the new all-white away kit for 2014-15

WOLVES have taken the wraps off their new away kit – and it's one that will delight the traditionalists.

The club have opted to return to Wolves' long-term change kit of all white, with a black, button-down collar and black trim, through manufacturers Puma.

Wolves have moved back to their traditional away colours after the purple worn last season.

In recent seasons Wolves' away

kit has been all black, white with red trim and teal. This is the first time it's reverted to all white with black trim since the 2009-10 season and has come after requests from many fans.

As with the new home strip, the club has ordered fewer away kits so supporters are being encouraged to move quickly to avoid disappointment. The shirts are available to order online now and they were in

the megastores at Molineux and Dudley Street today.

Adult shirts are priced from £42 and junior shirts are from £30.

This week's megastore opening hours are: Molineux; Wednesday 9am-8pm, Thursday, Friday and Saturday 9am-5pm, Sunday 10am-4pm. Dudley Street: Wednesday, 9am-6pm, Thursday and Friday, 9am-6pm, Saturday, 9am-5pm, and Sunday 10am-4pm.

George notch up their first away win

Warwick & Worcester Premier Division 1 Sutton Park 167 The George 233

The first team gained their first away win of the season beating struggling Sutton Park.

A tight first four saw The George lead by eight shots, Marc Wilson (21-10) and Phil Clinton (21-15) both winning.

The George took control and wins in the middle four by Pete Davenport (21-4), Shane Day (21-6) and Mick McGuinness (21-11) increased the lead to 41 shots. A 66-shot victory was completed with wins by Steve Darling (21-7), Mark Street (21-11) and Steve Dicken (21-19).

South Staffs Premier Division The George 194 Dudley Dell 237

The second team went down to a disappointing 43-shot home defeat to Dudley Dell. Wins by Eric Winstone (21-11), Chris Lambert (21-18) and Steve Fagin (21-19).

Warwick & Worcester Alliance Division 2 Baldwin 193 The George 218

The third team had a 25-shot away win at The Baldwin. Best of the seven winners were Bob Sansom (21-6), Jan Pratley (21-8) and Dave Hill (21-9).

Battle starts to keep the Brummies

PASSIONATE Birmingham speedway supporters have set up a fighting fund to try and keep the club going.

With the future of the Perry Barr Brummies looking bleak, supporters desperate to keep their club on track have already raised over £5,000.

Whilst progress so far has been superb, they are appealing for donations to keep coming as they look to enable speedway to continue in the city.

Contributions can be made by PayPal, bank transfer or cheque, with all monies returned or passed on to the Speedway Riders' Benevolent Fund should the club fold. More details can be found on www.brummie-speedway.net.

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Timing mystery
Villa machinations
take another turn
Page 39

Kitted out
New Wolves away
strip is unveiled
Page 39



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Hadley signs for another season

BEN HADLEY has agreed to another season with Tipton Town under the new management team much to the delight of the club.

Head Coach Nathan Lamey said: "Ben has been spot on the last week.

"He obviously had options, but we were really keen to demonstrate our credentials and ability to Ben.

"We had a good chat with him after Thursday's session and Friday morning he sent us a message that he wanted to be on board.

"Only three weeks ago we had the task of a complete new team with no budget and competing against teams in our league and above with a budget. The personnel we have are nothing short of fantastic and their desire to succeed is so refreshing to see".

Hadley added: "The team made me feel so welcome and the philosophy of the management team is something I want to be part of.

"As soon as I arrived I was made to feel an important part of the plans and squad.

"The lads are class, very supportive and the desire to be successful is something I have not witnessed before."

Conditioning coach Carey-Bertram has been hard at work over the past week to get the players ready.

Brummies forced to fold

BIRMINGHAM Brummies speedway team has folded.

The announcement comes after the decision of promoter Alan Phillips to pull out of the club. It means the club will be removed from the Elite League and its records expunged for this season.

The Brummies, who lost their last fixture 56-39 away to Belle Vue on Monday night, were formed in 2007 and are currently second from bottom of the table.

But it is hoped speedway can continue at Perry Barr in some format.

A statement from the British Speedway Promoters' Association read: "The Association can confirm the annulment of Birmingham Brummies Ltd, the Birmingham Speedway promotion."

"This is a decision made in accordance with the speedway regulations."

Glover is itching for Harris showdown

TIPTON'S Lee Glover 'can't wait' for Friday's showdown with Gloucester's Andy Harris for the British Masters Super Featherweight Title at Walsall Town Hall.

The 'Tipton Slasher' is ready to make up for lost time and avenge his Majority Decision loss to Jon Kays for the English Title when he appears he tops the bill of EJKO Promotions' 'The Heat Is On'.

Glover has revealed that he is using that paper thin English Title defeat as inspiration as he looks to push on and fulfil his potential.

"It still plays on my mind a bit but I'm

Boxing

using that as motivation to push on," Glover said. "I took the English Champion all the way and only lost a majority decision away from home against the Champion. I've proved I can mix it at that level."

"I only had a four-rounder before that fight so that gives me confidence too.

"Having a ten round fight on home soil is just what I've been waiting for. It's been a long time since I fought in front of my home fans, so I want to put on a bit of a show. It's a big deal for me.

"Andy Harris is a tough kid. He will be a test but I'm ready for it. I'm fully committed to boxing and ready to push on. I did slack off a bit when my daughter was born but now she's a little older; I can give this sport my all and really kick on. Friday can't come quick enough."

A limited number of tickets, priced at £30 and £60 Ringside, are available from Walsall Town Hall Box Office on 0845 111 2900. The aftershow party and weigh-in both take place at the Pitch Sports Bar and Grill on Bridge Street, Walsall.

Glover versus Harris is supported by four

intriguing fights. Halesowen super middleweight Lennox Clarke will be looking to record a fourth straight win when he steps in with Croydon's Joe Walsh.

Stafford's Grant Cunningham makes a welcome return to ring action. The undefeated super middleweight prospect will be looking to make it 9-0 when he takes on the dangerous Welsh scrapper, Jamie Ambler.

Birmingham super featherweight prospect, Sean 'Show Time' Davis, takes on Bristol's Harvey Hemsley. The show will be aired live on BBC WM's DAB Digital Service and online at www.bbc.co.uk/wm.

Tipton's fixtures for Cups

TIPTON Town FC now know their opponents in both the FA Cup and FA Vase preliminary rounds.

The FA Cup draw sees Town take on St Andrew's of the East Midland Counties league, while in the FA Vase, the club faces a home tie against the newly formed Hinckley AFC.

The FA Cup tie takes place on Saturday August 16, while the FA Vase will be at the Tipton Sports Academy on September 6.

Tipton manager Nick Hawkins, who himself played in the FA Cup third round proper against Cardiff City was part of the Chasetown squad that made the club so famous.

He said: "There is no better feeling than playing in the FA Cup. It is an experience I will never forget and something I really hope to emulate in the future, hopefully with Tipton Town."

"As a management team, we see no reason why we can't go on a successful cup run this season.

"There is a great buzz around Tipton Town at the moment and I think it is rubbing off on all involved. Hopefully we can get more people through the gates."

Woff will lead the GB riders

TAI WOFFINDEN spearheads the 10-man Great Britain squad for speedway's World Cup announced by new team boss Alun Rossiter.

Rosco' must select four for the big night at King's Lynn on Saturday, July 26.

But Wolves' world champion Woffinden, already captain, is odds on.

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketter, Telford, Thursday, July 10

USA FIRM WILL SPONSOR ALBION

ALBION have ended their summer search for a new main sponsor by clinching a deal with a multi-billion pound American-based business.

The Baggies will carry the brand of QuickBooks – a software accountancy solution that has been a roaring success for Californian firm Intuit – on the new shirts to be launched on Friday.

The deal is thought to be in the same region as the £1m-a-year Zoopla sponsorship which came to a controversial end last season when its Jewish co-owner Alex Chesterman took exception to the infamous Nicolas Anelka 'quenelle' salute.

That gave the club one more signing to chase in a summer which sees them looking to re-stock their first team squad extensively. And the deal has now been announced linking Albion with parent company Intuit, a firm founded in 1983 which has gone on to become a brand leader in financial management.

Mileage

Their base will throw fresh clarity on Albion's decision to take up the extra mileage of a trip to the USA west coast later this month for a pre-season tour.

Albion chief executive Mark Jenkins said: "I'm delighted to welcome QuickBooks on board as our new principal partner."

"The fact we have been able to join forces with such an established global brand underlines the strides the club has been making in recent years. We are looking forward to forming a strong

Football

working relationship with Intuit QuickBooks."

QuickBooks Vice-President and UK Managing Director Rich Prece, added: "We're thrilled to be forming a close partnership with West Bromwich Albion Football Club."

"As one of the founding members of the Football League, Albion has a long and impressive history as a well-supported, family-focused club with incredibly passionate fans."

The deal means Albion also have the chance to find a sponsor for their training kit with QuickBooks restricting their branding to the match shirts.

Meanwhile Albion have been told they will have to pay a fee for Australian international Jason Davidson if they want press ahead with his signing.

The Baggies have held preliminary talks with the 23-year-old left-back, who played in all three of his nation's World Cup games, in the belief that he was a free agent. But Davidson's Dutch Eredivisie side Heracles Almelo have insisted that they have a one-year option on his contract.

Jordanne is new Wimbledon champion



Jordanne Whiley, left, and Yui Kamiji celebrate winning the ladies' wheelchair doubles title at Wimbledon

THE Black Country can boast it's very own Wimbledon champion thanks to Jordanne Whiley.

The talented 22-year-old from Halesowen took the ladies' wheelchair doubles title with partner Yui Kamiji of Japan.

The pair beat Dutch duo Jiske Griffioen and Aniek van Koot – the two-time defending champions – to scoop the title and shared the prize of £12,000.

Whiley and Kamiji, the number one seeds, avenged their loss in the 2013 final with a 2-6, 6-2, 7-5 victory.

Jordanne was cheered on by her parents Keith and Julie and boyfriend Marc. "I was really nervous and disappointed the first set didn't go our way," said Miss Whiley, now of Uxbridge.

"I put a towel over my head, thought that I will only get one shot at a Wimbledon final and that was

the turning point." When Kamiji and Whiley made it 6-5 in the third set, Whiley thought she might be sick on the court. She said: "I said to Yui I thought I was going to vomit because I felt excited."

Whiley was born with brittle bone disease, the same condition as her father Keith who was a bronze medalist at the 1984 Paralympics. She has broken her legs 26 times.

● Pressure – Page 39

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